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WEATHEREstablished
1924**THE HILLTOP**

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 91, NO. 85

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Wednesday, February 20, 2008**Wednesday
Notebook****BREAKING NEWS**

SENATORS BARACK OBAMA (D-ILL.) AND JOHN MCCAIN (R-ARIZ.) WON THE WISCONSIN DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES LAST NIGHT, ACCORDING TO CNN.COM.

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

STARBUCKS PARTNERS WITH AT&T TO PROVIDE ITS CUSTOMERS WITH FREE WI-FI SERVICE IN ITS STORES.

LIFE & STYLE

OUR RESIDENT FASHIONISTO, GEORGE LANDER, SHOWS YOU HOW TO GET FASHION TIPS FROM ORDINARY PEOPLE.

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PAGE 8

**Green Party Presidential Candidate
Cynthia McKinney Comes to Locke**BY VANESSA ROZIER
Nation & World Editor

Back when Bill Clinton was president of the United States, a White House intern made a decision of her lifetime. Not Monica Lewinski, but Ingrid Drake, a young, aspiring politician, lost hope in the Democratic Party.

"I was disgusted for them not standing by women and blacks," Drake said. She was an advocate for Proposition 209, a proposed amendment that would have stopped public institutions from considering race or gender for admission.

Tuesday night, in the auditorium of Locke Hall, Drake recalled her disgust and outrage toward the Democratic Party before listening to presidential candidate Cynthia McKinney.

McKinney, another former Democrat, made the last stop of the night at Howard University on Tuesday to show the documentary "American Blackout" and to raise awareness of the independent party she is now affiliated with, the



Gabe Canyon - Contributing Photographer

Green Party presidential candidate Cynthia McKinney held a screening of "American Blackout," a documentary about the disenfranchisement of black voters and her reelection to Congress, in Locke Hall Tuesday.

Green Party.

"We know she's not going to get elected this election," said David W. Schwartzman, a biology professor at Howard. "But she'll raise a lot of issues."

Of the Green Party primaries thus far, McKinney is the clear leader, winning in Arkansas, Illinois and Washington, D.C.

Schwartzman, an active

Green Party member and Howard professor for more than 30 years, said McKinney's candidacy will bring to light issues such

> See **McKINNEY**, Page 3**Fidel Castro Officially Leaves Office**

Photo courtesy of cache.eb.com

Fidel Castro, the 81-year-old leader of Cuba, has officially stepped down from his position as president. Castro served as the Cuban president for nearly 50 years, making him one of the longest serving leaders in the world.

Early Tuesday, Castro announced his plans to step down as leader by saying, "I will not aspire to, nor will I accept the position of president to the council of state and commander in chief. I wish only to fight as a soldier of ideas. Perhaps my voice will be heard."

Castro, who led Cuba into a one-party socialist republic, severed any form of friendship that may have existed between Cuba and the United States after the Bay of Pigs Invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis. Many are hoping that now with Castro out of the picture, Cuba will be able to experience a less "hands on" government. According to CNN reports, many Cubans are optimistic for a government with more openness, freedom and hope.

President George W. Bush commented on Castro's resignation by saying it would be a time of "democratic transition" for Cuba. "The international community should work with the Cuban people to begin to build institutions that are necessary for democracy and eventually, this transition ought to lead to free and fair elections," Bush said. "The United States will help the people of Cuba realize the blessings of liberty."

Castro has been suffering from multiple illnesses and critical health conditions within the past years, which may have contributed to his decision.

Although Cuban leaders plan to elect a new president within the next few days, Castro's brother, Raul, has already been publicly named as his successor. Raul Castro, 76, currently serves as Cuba's Minister of Defense.

- Compiled by Jada Smith, Staff Writer

Toshiba Discontinues HD DVD After Product Outsold by Blu-RayBY LINSEY ISAACS
Editorial Assistant

The battle between Toshiba's High Definition DVDs and Sony's Blu-ray disks recently ended when Toshiba announced a discontinuation of their HD DVD products Tuesday morning.

The company will no longer produce the product and has begun pulling HD DVDs off the market, with the process ending at the end of March this year.

After its introduction in 2006, the HD DVD continued

to compete with Sony's Blu-Ray disk, though it was supported by major movie studios Universal, Dreamworks Animation and Paramount. The three companies are now expected to support the Blu-Ray disks following Toshiba's decision.

"We carefully assessed the long-term impact of continuing the so-called 'next-generation format war' and concluded that a swift decision will best help the market develop," Atsutoshi Nishida, President and CEO of Toshiba Corporation, said in a statement. "While we are

disappointed for the company and more importantly, for the consumer, the real mass market opportunity for high definition content remains untapped and Toshiba is both able and determined to use our talent, technology and intellectual property to make digital convergence a reality."

A major part of the assessment included Wal-Mart Stores' choice to not stock Toshiba HD products, while it and other major companies such as Best Buy and Netflix will sell Blu-Ray disks. Warner Bros. has supported Blu-

Ray disks since the beginning of its sale, causing an automatic drop in sales by Toshiba.

Toshiba's shares jumped 5.7 percent Monday, although analysts worry Toshiba may lose close to hundreds of millions of dollars after dropping the HD DVD. The company made approximately \$60.3 billion in sales last year, and has sold almost 1 million HD DVD players, while Sony's Blu-Ray disks sold about the same amount or less. Sony pulled in a large amount of its revenue from almost 3 million Blu-ray drives sold as part of the

Sony Playstation 3 game system. It is unclear exactly how much money Toshiba will lose from pulling this product. Many sales representatives have already begun to advise consumers to purchase the Blu-Ray disks instead.

"I advise customers to buy Blu-Ray disks," said sophomore civil engineering major Jarrett Payne, who is also an FYE sales associate. "It's better, but it's more expensive. [Blu-Ray disks] have a better format and quality, though, and they're supported by bigger companies."

By the advice of most sales

representatives and experts, the HD DVD hasn't gained much popularity among students and other consumers.

"I don't own an HD DVD player and I've never actually seen one," freshman biology major Tochi Odocha said. "That would suck for the company and I don't think they should take [HD DVDs] off the market, but I guess they have to do what's necessary to make money."

Toshiba will continue to lend full support to customers who still own HD DVDs.

> See **CLARK-ATL**, Page 3**Clark Atlanta
President Gone After
Six Years at Helm**BY MICHELLE D. ANDERSON
Black College Wire

After six years as president, a term often rocked by controversy and opposition, Walter D. Broadnax, president of Clark Atlanta University, recently announced his retirement during the college's annual winter Board of Trustees meeting.

"These past six years have been very rewarding for my wife Angel and me, and we will miss the students and the special contact we have had with the many extraordinary people in the CAU family," Broadnax said in an official statement. "While it is difficult to leave this wonderful job at CAU, I am ready for the new and exciting opportunities that come with retirement."

Clark Atlanta sophomore Sade Benton welcomed the announcement.

"Since I've been here, I haven't seen any changes or developments," Benton said. The fashion merchandising major said she wanted to see more of an effort among the administration to get involved with students and advance the quality of students' education.

Shane Bundy, a Clark Atlanta sophomore, said Broadnax's leave might have been prompted by the fact that administration has not been honest with students and alumni about the state and progress of their institution.

"A lot of stuff going on will eventually come to light," Bundy said. "Maybe we're still in debt."

Howard University junior political science and sociology major Abimbola George understands why the students at Clark Atlanta would be frustrated with a non-transparent administration.

"It's very important that we hold our universities' administration accountable," George said. "The administration has to support the voice of the student."

Bundy praised the social work academic program at Clark Atlanta but expressed disappointment with the fact that the nursing program was phased out. She said the program was still intact when she applied but by the time she arrived on campus, the program was gone.

Howard University African-American studies professor Lilly Ammons was concerned about the way Broadnax went about cutting the programs.

"I'm concerned because unless there is a precise reason that these programs are being cut, it sets a bad precedent for other



Photo courtesy of cau.edu

Clark Atlanta University President Walter D. Broadnax has retired after holding his position for six years.

historically black colleges," Ammons said.

Ammons said if programs are being cut, it is important to look at the university's mission to see if these programs coincide with the mission.

After confirming Broadnax's retirement on Feb. 15, the university announced that Broadnax's tenure would officially end on July 31. Carlton E. Brown, the university's executive vice president, will take over as interim president on Aug. 1.

Brown, who assumed his position as executive vice president on July 18, served as the president of Savannah State University for almost 10 years. He had been charged with handling the day-to-day operations of Clark Atlanta while Broadnax focused on raising money.

Broadnax, who is the second president to have led Clark Atlanta after the merger of Atlanta University and Clark College in 1988, has been credited with increasing enrollment, gaining the university's re-accreditation, securing funds for the renovation of three existing residence halls and for making plans for the formation of the Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development, according to a release.

Clark Atlanta appeared on the Washington Monthly's 2008 list of "Best Colleges and Universities" and during October, US News & World Report ranked Clark Atlanta University as No. 24 out of 34 best historically black colleges and institutions for the publication's historic, special edition.

In 2003, a year after Broad

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Interview Preparation Key for Landing Dream Job

BY DENISE HORN
Contributing Writer

"If you could be a fruit, what fruit would you be?" It was a question from left field thrown into Alicia Jordan's face when she was in high school on a job interview.

"It was a simple interview for a job working with kids, but I was so nervous," said Jordan, a junior psychology major. With her stomach already churning and palms becoming sweaty, Jordan took a breath and answered with a smile, "A strawberry because you can throw it in any fruit salad and it still tastes great."

Jordan got the job, but for some other Howard students, such as junior art major Ben Lewis, it is hard to tackle such odd questions. If asked that question, Lewis believes he would just give a puzzled look and say what first came to his head.

"So many things are already running through your head, such as remembering a smile, firm handshake and not tripping over my words," Lewis said. "I am already running so many answers through my head that I wouldn't expect a question like that."

Christina Hardy, an execu-



Photo courtesy of by.edu.

Interviewees should dress appropriately and be knowledgeable about the company they want to work for.

tive assistant in the career services office, thinks students should be prepared to discuss their weaknesses and strengths and how

they are working to improve those areas.

"For example, if you are interviewing for an accounting

firm, you say that numbers are your strength," Hardy said. "For a weakness, you may say you procrastinate but always bring the

answer back around to show how you are working on that weakness."

Sandra Rice is the vice president of the Emma Bowen Foundation for Minority Interests in Media. Each year, she receives more than 500 applicants and interviews at least 100 of them for various internships with companies such as NBC and CBS.

With more than 20 years of experience in the media industry, Rice urges students to learn everything about the prospective employer.

"Do your homework on the company you are interviewing for," Rice said. "That will lead to a maze of questions. Also, Google the person you are interviewing with and be prepared to ask them their career track."

Since interviewers often base questions from the experience indicated on one's résumé, it is important to be prepared to discuss the entire résumé. Vault.com is a career advisory and professional development Web site. According to Vault, an interviewee should memorize at least one additional paragraph of information for each question.

Rice and Hardy both en-

courage students to put just as much effort into attire as they do in the interview.

Rice said, "It is always a good idea to 'dress up' rather than down for the interview. Crisp white blouses [or] shirts say a lot about a first impression."

Additionally, Hardy reminds students to dress for the career they want.

Wear a suit and have clean nails, neatly groomed hair and extra résumés, Hardy said.

Just as making a first impression is important during an interview, so is leaving a lasting impression. Hardy prefers leaving a handwritten thank you card to make it more personal.

"Handwritten cards can show your personality and leave a lasting touch," she said.

Rice believes an e-mail is appropriate since it's much faster, but she warns, "Just be sure to make sure it is more formal and not casual. And as always, spell check is mandatory."

Students in search of jobs can attend today's career fair in the Blackburn Ballroom from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Business attire is required.

Starbucks Partners With AT&T for Free Wi-Fi

BY MAKULA DUNBAR
Contributing Writer

Starbucks announced on Feb. 11 that it will be partnering with AT&T to provide free Wi-Fi service for their customers at more than 7,000 locations in the United States this spring.

According to a press release on Yahoo! Finance, AT&T Chief Marketing Officer for consumer services Rick Welday said, "People want to stay connected to their world 24/7, and Wi-Fi hot spots, broadband and wireless make that mobility possible."

"Laptops and smartphones give us the online mobility we crave, and now millions of AT&T and Starbucks customers will get Internet access free from the comfort of their neighborhood Starbucks," he added.

AT&T Wi-Fi service will be free for some customers, unlike the service provided by T-Mobile where regular customers, who do not have a T-Mobile phone plan, must select an alternate payment plan to use the Internet.

However, the service will only be free for Starbucks card holders and customers with a

Starbucks gift card.

According to AT&T's Web site, free Wi-Fi comes at a price for customers who are not Starbucks card holders.

Regular customers can use the Internet at a beginning rate of \$3.99 for two hours.

Students who subscribe to AT&T broadband or AT&T U-verse have the freedom of using the Wi-Fi for an unlimited amount of time.

Starbucks' decision for partnering with AT&T is to further expand their wireless network.

Artstechnica.com, a Web site dedicated to the art of technology, suggests that the Wi-Fi AT&T plans to provide is just another way for Starbucks to rise above the small competition and small coffee shops.

AT&T is already the largest wireless network in the nation.

Therefore, their partnership with Starbucks is a move to maintain their reign over the Wi-Fi world of technology.

In the press release, Chris Bruzzo, chief technology officer for Starbucks Coffee Company, said, "This is what our customers have been waiting for—free

Starbucks-quality Wi-Fi."

He added, "Through our new partnership with AT&T, we also welcome their millions of current customers who can now come in and enjoy free Wi-Fi as part of their daily Starbucks experience."

The question as to whether or not the Wi-Fi will bring in more, as well as a variety of customers is up in the air in students' opinions.

Jahaan McCoy, a sophomore majoring in English and elementary education, does not believe the addition of free Wi-Fi will create much of a change.

"It really won't make a difference because the I-lab is right across the street," McCoy said. "If anything, the free Wi-Fi service would be more beneficial to the community. Students will still come for the coffee, but not so much for the free Internet."

Sophomore finance major Nickolas Speed disagreed and believes the Internet would actually be beneficial for frequent Starbucks customers.

"I would use it," he said. "It would be more convenient to do homework."

As far as the Wi-Fi service attracting a variety of custom-



Alexthea I. Carter - Photo Editor

Starbucks card holders and customers with Starbucks gift cards will soon be able to access free Wi-Fi service at more than 7,000 Starbucks locations across the country thanks to a new deal with wireless network leader AT&T.

ers, Speed thinks Starbucks will continue to attract the same customers they have been getting.

"I don't think it will bring in so much of a new crowd, but students will definitely still come

to Starbucks as they did before," Speed said.

New York Times Launches Modern Love Essay Contest

BY BRITTANY HUTSON
Business & Technology Editor

The New York Times launched its first Modern Love essay contest for undergraduate college students nationwide on Feb. 9.

The winner will receive \$1,000, have their essay published in *The New York Times* and *nytimes.com*, as well as be featured on *mtvU* and *mtvU.com*.

Students are asked to submit a personal essay ranging from 1,500 to 2,000 words that discusses the current state of love and relationships.

The deadline for submissions is March 31.

Modern Love is a weekly personal essay column that appears in *The New York Times* Sunday's styles section.

Launched in October 2004, the column focuses on human relationships.

Topics include dating, marriage, parenthood, divorce, loss, friendship and much more.

"We are looking for true accounts of what love and relationships are today for a new generation, whether affected by technology, changing times

and politics, social forces, etc." Modern Love column editor Daniel Jones said.

Jones explained what he is looking for in the essays.

"They should be emotionally honest, but can be funny if the humor arises naturally," he said. "Everyone has a different voice, but keep in mind it's a newspaper where information is conveyed with clarity."

Jones advised, "Wild experimentation in style or form probably won't fare well. These are first person essays, usually told in past tense, often told chronologically."

Jones also suggested that interested participants read the Modern Love column to see the range and limits of style.

There is an archive available online, as well as a published book available titled "Modern Love: 50 True and Extraordinary Tales of Desire, Deceit and Devotion."

In a press release, Trip Gabriel, editor of the Sunday Styles section, said, "We're very excited to hear the voices of our college-age readers who tackle life and love in a vastly different way than the generations before



Illustration courtesy of The New York Times

The winning entry in *The New York Times* Modern Love essay contest will be published in print and online at nytimes.com May 4.

them."

All essays should be submitted by e-mail to essaycontest@nytimes.com.

The winner will be announced May 4.

To find out more details about the contest, visit <http://nytimes.com/ads/marketing/modernlove/>.

Clark Atlanta President to Be Replaced by Executive Vice President

Continued from FRONT, CLARK-ATL

Broadnax replaced former president Thomas Cole, the college made the decision to cut five programs. Two years later, a group of faculty and students from the department filed a suit against the decision in a Fulton County court. The Supreme Court of Georgia eventually ruled against the group.

Because the university had struggled to rid itself of a \$7.5 million deficit and a \$25 million cash flow shortfall, Broadnax raised tuition, ended academic programs, and stopped hiring faculty and staff. While these changes took place, students had also complained about unsafe buildings, poor registration systems, and a lack of

communication between students and administration.

Students carried out various protest actions to express their resistance to Broadnax's leadership.

Last year, on Feb. 28, students protested on campus and solicited petition signatures asking Broadnax to resign after a 5 percent increase in tuition. Later, during April, 114 faculty members cast a vote of "no confidence" in Broadnax's leadership, and later that month, students enrolled in the college's African-America Studies and Africana Women's Studies program sued the administration for breach of contract because they said they didn't have enough time to finish their programs. In May, students held a press conference on the steps of Robert W. Woodruff Library

and demanded that Broadnax be removed from his position.

Last fall, Broadnax and Brown met with students and media to discuss the improvements they planned to implement during the 2007-2008 academic school year. Brown said changes in Clark Atlanta's future would better customer service and raising more money outside of tuition increases.

"My hope is that I go before someone has to ask me. That's my pitch you might say. I came to serve. I want every hour that I'm here to be of positive service," Broadnax said during the Oct. 17 meeting.

-Additional reporting by Eboni Farmer

McKinney Shows Documentary, Delivers Green Party Message

Continued from FRONT, MCKINNEY

as the tax system, global warming, divestment and the job market.

Schwartzman's support shows through his ballot, as he voted for her during the Washington, D.C. primary, and through his wallet, as he donated \$1,000 toward her campaign.

"Speaking for myself, I want to see that Democrats win, but I'm supporting McKinney because we need a voice that speaks to millions to speak truth to power," he said. Schwartzman is currently active in the party by pushing for a D.C. Congestion Charge that would charge people for driving into the city, therefore pushing commuters to the Metro and using the funds to improve the public transportation system.

"I demonstrated outside of the Rayburn Building during the 2004 election debate on the Hill," he said as he described his activist history.

The majority of the visit was the documentary that McKinney shared with the audience, which was comprised mostly by area residents and Green supporters.

The documentary chronicled McKinney's fight for a seat in Congress and for investigation into the controversial elections of 2000 and 2004.

In the film, a commentator said, "If the votes had been counted in Florida and if all blacks were able to vote, Bush wouldn't be president, there would be

no invasion of Iraq and there would be different judges serving on the Supreme Court."

Ray Baker, one of the few Howard students who sat in the audience, said he came in hopes of meeting the former Georgia representative.

"She is what people hope that Barack Obama is," said Baker, a senior broadcast journalism major. "She is interested in what's best for black fold, what's best for poor people and people at large."

Baker said he will be voting for McKinney during the general election but does not believe she will win. Like Schwartzman, Baker said McKinney's campaign will draw attention to issues that otherwise would be ignored.

Schwartzman announced that students interested in forming an official Campus Greens chapter on Howard's campus can contact him. There are hundreds of chapters across the country, according to the Campus Greens Web site. These students are advocates of this third party and hope for change.

Scott McLarty, media coordinator for the Green Party, came in support of McKinney and said that, by being a member of Campus Greens, students would be able to get involved in the presidential campaigns and even become candidates themselves.

"One of the best ways of learning about politics is getting some experience," McLarty said.

You missed your chance this week.

It's OK, come grab a story at next week's budget meeting.

**Hilltop Budget Meetings -
Monday @ 7 p.m. in the West Tower**

Thank you for letting us capture your lives...

Sniper Hoax at Meridian
Howard Moves for Jena
Barack Obama Speaks at Convocation
Election 2008 Coverage

...don't feel bad, you can thank us, too...

Why?

Because we brought home 9 awards from the
10th Annual HBCU Newspaper/Media Conference.

Including 4 first place awards:
Best News Coverage (Jena Six)
Best Headline (iPod Touch)
Best Editorial (HPV Vaccine)
Best Sports Feature (Keely's Boxing Gym)

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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



Marcus Bird - Cartoonist

Clinton Underestimates Obama, Desperate for Votes

Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) has always appeared desperate for the black vote, the woman vote and now any vote.

She garnered the support of BET mogul Bob Johnson in order to attract the black vote, went around reminding voters that her husband was the first "black president" and let's not forget her crying spectacle a day before the New Hampshire primaries.

Many of the tactics used in this campaign have made Clinton look desperate, but this most recent antic makes her look like a desperate cheater.

Clinton recently announced that she wants to re-seat the delegates lost in Florida and Michigan. Democratic Party rules were broken in those states when primaries were held before Feb. 5, and the Democratic National Committee decided that the votes wouldn't count.

The candidates agreed, but the states held their votes anyway. Clinton won those states,

and now of course, in a plea in desperation, wants the votes to count.

It is fair to assume that Clinton did not expect Barack Obama (D-Ill.) to be a serious contender in this race. She probably figured John Edwards would be her biggest competition, or that she would be farther along in the race by now. Obama was the Democratic underdog during the initial stages of the democratic

Obama anyway, and now that she isn't, she wants to play dirty.

NAACP President Julian Bond has come out in support of Clinton's desperation, although the NAACP has not officially endorsed any one candidate. Although the rules were agreed upon, Bond says the unseating of the delegates was a problem with the local government and is unfair to the voters.

Of course, Clinton supporters want to re-seat the delegates, and although it would significantly help Clinton's campaign, Obama would still be leading.

Clinton's best bet is to get on her grind and get ready for the upcoming primaries. She still has a slight chance to catch up with Obama, but she needs to do it fair and square.

We do not want a repeat of 2000, and we certainly don't want a president who begged, pleaded and cheated their way into office, so Hillary, please check the desperation at the door.

Our View:

Hillary is desperate for votes.

primaries. However, after primaries in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia, Obama has a considerable lead in the battle for delegate votes.

Why would Clinton agree to not counting the votes only to come back and decide that she did want to count them? Initially, she figured she would beat



Marcus Bird - Cartoonist

FEMA Sparks Fume Over Formaldehyde in New Orleans

Two years ago when tragedy struck the great city of New Orleans and thousands of residents were displaced, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) stepped in, providing trailers for thousands of families throughout the Gulf Coast.

Almost immediately, there were health complaints and issues with the formaldehyde levels. Now two years later, the same complaints are resurfacing, as many residents are stuck living in unsafe trailers.

The Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently inspected 519 randomly selected trailers, and discovered the formaldehyde levels were five times higher than they should be for indoors. This is the case because trailers are only liveable for a certain period of time, depending on the model and the surroundings, after which time high levels of gaseous household fatalities begin to surface.

This is just another example of a government agency not taking their jobs seriously.

These complaints were made in the spring of 2006, when about 1,000 New Orleans families asked FEMA to move them to new quarters. Finally, a year and a half later, the CDC has taken it upon themselves to investigate, putting fire under

Our View:
Government assistance is supposed to help, not hurt.

FEMA originally stepped in to help the residents of New Orleans with trailers, but failed to follow through to ensure that the living arrangements were safe. It is sad to consider that people could potentially die because of the carelessness of FEMA.

Although it has not been reported that illnesses have arisen from the sub-par living conditions, there may be people who become sick from living in these trailers.

FEMA has proposed the evacuation of 38,000 New Orleans residents. They plan to find alternative housing for them. However, they also need to propose a way to take care of any health costs that the residents incur as a result of their decaying living conditions.

Notwithstanding, FEMA and the CDC cannot be completely blamed. How much responsibility is to be placed on the people of New Orleans for their own living conditions? Hurricane Katrina occurred nearly three years ago. It is time for residents to rebuild. And if residents knew that there was formaldehyde in their trailers a year and a half ago, why did they remain and put themselves and their families in danger? It is certainly a joint effort.

Nevertheless, the people of New Orleans continue to be disappointed. It should be clear by now that they shouldn't rely solely on the government for protection. It has become clear in the pattern of behavior that they will only act when they are spotlighted for not acting.

Got An Issue?

Good!

Submit Perspectives at:

www.thehilltoponline.com

Look for the letter to the editor link under the options tab.

For info on submitting an essay in Friday's extended E&P page, e-mail

e.philltop@gmail.com and get your opinion published in *The Hilltop*.

There is Something Infecting Our Community

Do You Know What it Is?

Submit a perspective and tell us about us.

The opinions expressed in the columns on the extended Op-Ed page reflect those of each individual author, not those of *The Hilltop* Editorial Board.

Political Inequality

Jada Smith

Throughout the history of black people in America, it never fails that we always find a way to divide ourselves instead of finding avenues of unity. No matter if it be in the form of skin complexion, hair grade or length or hometowns, we as a black community have failed ourselves for not embracing each others differences, but rejecting and excluding each other for lifestyle choices.

And now, in a time when I would think we have moved past the majority of our diversity issues, it has been brought to my attention that fellow members of the African diaspora are being ostracized for the political party in which they choose to vote.

How is it that people who never have, and probably never will even register to vote, are accepted among us, but those who choose to cast

a ballot for a Republican are damned to hell?

Not too long ago, I wrote an article about what it's like to be a young black Republican on Howard University's campus. I attended a meeting for the Howard University College Republicans, and only one person showed up...the undergraduate student body has about 10,000 students. I KNOW there are more conservatives than one. So why do they choose to not be vocal and active about their political affiliations on an all-black campus?

My guess is because they would rather not deal with the dirty looks and rude remarks that come with the title. Michael Varner, president of the HU College Republicans, said that he is attacked for his political affiliation on this campus on a daily basis. And another young Republican that I tried

to contact for my story told me that he could not be quoted in *The Hilltop* anymore because last time he was quoted having Republican views, he was shunned by other students and attacked for his political ideals.

Why do we insist on tearing each other down and making a spectacle of those who believe different things than we do? What law says all blacks have to be Democrats? It's just as the Christians were persecuted for their beliefs, and the freedom fighters of the 1960s were persecuted for theirs... the only difference is this time, we are persecuting ourselves.

Maybe on a campus as politically active as Howard's, I guess it's only OK to be politically involved if you're involved with a certain party. Otherwise, just be quiet. Right?

BECAUSE I SAID SO!



... 365 Black and Happy About It
By Jessica Littles

I am so happy to be black. Not just because it's Black History Month, not because Obama may be making history this year, not because we are a beautiful race of people, or because we are amazingly talented and gifted — OK, maybe because of all of those things. But I just love my race. And although it's Black History Month, I think we should celebrate diversity. Not the diversity in the world or in the nation, although that's nice too, but rather the diversity that lies in being black. One of my biggest gripes with the black community is the aversion toward difference, even within our own community. This intolerance causes divisions among us. We are divided by socioeconomic status, geographic location, skin color and even basic preferences.

And Howard is certainly a microcosm of the black community. On this campus, there is every socioeconomic status represented, every type, every make and every mold of black. There may be more of one form than another, but nevertheless this campus is a beautiful arrangement of color.

Unfortunately, these differences are not easily digested among students on this campus. There are the "bougie" people, the "free-spirited" people, the "ghetto" kids, the "Africans," the "Islanders." There are so many boxes at Howard and they rarely mix, purposefully. It's much easier to travel miles away from home to get an authentic college experience and only hang out with people who remind you of your friends back home. Yep, it makes perfect sense.

Anyway, last week, one of my colleagues wrote a wonderful guest essay on black women wearing their hair natural. While I certainly respect someone's decision to go natural, I don't believe in preaching to someone else on how to wear their hair. I think natural hair is beautiful, but I also believe that it is a black woman's prerogative to wear a blond weave to the middle of her back if she so pleases. Why would I care either way? No, I really would like an answer to this question because I really can't fathom why someone else would care how I wear my hair.

The truth is, people are scared of differences, and this is certainly true in the black community. If someone doesn't believe or think the way we feel, we are quick to judge them and declare our way "the right way," as if there can only be one right way. I like to view the way I live my life "the right way FOR ME." And if I meet someone who lives a way that is personally offensive toward me, I don't associate myself with them. That's easy.

And part of this aversion toward anything different manifests into jealousy and straight up hate. Black people, face the music — we are crabs in a bucket! The reason that we are stifled as a community is because we are haters. Simply put. We are not less attractive, less talented. We don't have a problem achieving.

If someone else is succeeding, we are quick to label them and come up with 50,000 reasons why we couldn't do what they did. And black women are definitely suspect when it comes to this. I've seen it with my own eyes and have heard it with my own ears. "She acting brand new now that she..." "Why she walk around with her hair all nappy..." The more important question is: Why do YOU care? And where is the love?

Honestly, I think it's a natural feeling. I have friends who will swear up and down they've never hated on anyone a day in their life. I don't believe them. I think there are people who do it less than others. These are the people who are secure with themselves and have no need to criticize someone else every time they get the opportunity, but there are always times when that little green-eyed monster catches you off guard.

But in the spirit of Black History Month, play nice with someone who didn't grow up how you grew up or who doesn't wear their hair the way you wear your hair. And if you find yourself thinking or talking negatively about someone — don't pretend — you are hating and you should stop it immediately. Take this month (and all year) to celebrate who we are and the diversity that is within our community. You may find it fulfilling. Until next time...

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THE HILLTOP

2251 Sherman Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 806-4724 (Editorial)
(202) 806-4749 (Business)
hilltopbusiness@gmail.com

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

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College Students Lighting Up Everywhere

Cigarette advertisements continue to target youth; youth continue to smoke

BY COURTNEY BATTLE
Contributing Writer

The ads and commercials bombard students daily, whether they are on television, the radio or in magazines. However, there are still college campuses filled with students who prefer to both study and smoke.

According to thetruth.com, 25.7 percent of college students smoke cigarettes, and 15 percent do so daily.

"Every time I walk out of my dorm or into a building, there are people outside smoking," said Alfreda Turner, a freshman special education major at Michigan State University.

Michael Craighead, a senior arts and graphic design major at Howard University, said, "I honestly feel that students are curious about smoking cigarettes. Because it's so prevalent on campuses, students are intrigued by it." Craighead is a former smoker, but knows several other students who still partake in the habit. "Honestly, I feel that some students still get caught in the trap of thinking that smoking is cool."

Turner said, "I think most students tried it when they were younger and just happened to get addicted to them, but I don't know too many students that planned on becoming smokers when they were younger."

Jessica Kuehne, a research assistant for the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids of Washington, D.C. agrees that youth are the target of "big tobacco" in many instances. She said 90 percent of smokers start their habit before they reach 18 years old, and evidence has proven that most of them begin in middle school.

"They're heavily targeted by the tobacco industry," Kuehne said. "They know they're the most impressionable."

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids reports that tobacco companies have spent millions to market to college students and those in the same age group. Ranging from sponsored musical events at bars, ads in college newspapers and free samples, the tobacco industry is hitting the college population hard. An executive from the third largest U.S. cigarette company, Brown & Williamson, said his company's bar promotions alone usually cost about \$30 million per year.

Senior psychology major Aaron Parker does not believe college smoking is a large problem, but does realize that the numbers are steadily increasing. Like Craighead, Parker does not smoke, but knows some of his colleagues do.

"Everyone knows how bad smoking is, yet they will continue to do it, knowing the effects," Parker said.

Despite the prevalence of cigarette smoking, there are other forms of tobacco or drugs that are becoming increasingly popular with the college crowd.

"I think that cigarette use is staying the same, but I

do think that alcohol use is a lot more popular," Turner said.

Craighead agreed, saying, "I feel cigarette use is — and has been — consistent. Alcohol is just as, if not more, popular than cigarettes. Most students drink 'socially,' and a certain percentage of those students also smoke."

Similarly, Kuehne believes college students are beginning to find other alternatives, "especially because the amount of smoke-free laws is increasing."

When it comes to preventing an increased onslaught of cigarette use at college, there

are several approaches.

Craighead asserts that alternative methods would be most effective.

"Cigarettes are legal, and regulations on putting cigarettes in people's hands are loose," he said. "Also, seeing that cigarettes are highly addictive, methods such as chewing gum, or nicotine patches [may be useful]. Throughout all the anti-smoking campaigns and advertisements, students still smoke."

Turner felt otherwise.

"I believe that banning smoking in public on campus, or at least banning it from the

residence halls, may cut down on students who smoke a little bit," she said.

Parker said, "Lung cancer isn't a joke."

Although students may know and understand the risks of cigarette smoking, Craighead notes that the decision to stop must be a personal one.

"The allure of smoking must be taken away for students to stop smoking cigarettes," he said. "Being a former smoker, I know how difficult it is to stop smoking. However, it's for your own health."



Photo courtesy of Janetta Freeman

Although students may know the risks of smoking, the number of college students who smoke is steadily increasing. Lung cancer, often caused by smoking, is one of the leading causes of death in America.



Diary of a Mad Black Fashionisto

BY GEORGE LANDER
Contributing Columnist

Muah! Muah! (that was the bougie double cheek kiss y'all). Welcome to another week of The Diary. I trust that Valentine's Day treated every one well...We'll see just how well it treated some of y'all come Nov. 14, 2008 (Use ya "edu-ma-cation" baby...that's about 9 months from now...Um hum!).

Moving right along to the subject of this week's column, Inspiration. Fashion week wrapped up about two weeks ago, and it's always interesting for me to see where designers draw their inspiration. Often an old movie, a painting or even the common folk (you and I) can act as muses for designers. That's right! Inspiration comes in more forms than the rappers and video "ladies" (couldn't say that with a straight face) on BET...Allow me to take your style influences to the next level.

If you've inhabited the "Chocolate City" for any reasonable amount of time, at some point you have experienced "THA 70." I am referring to the Georgia Avenue/7th Street bus line that runs the length of Georgia Ave (act like you don't own a SmarTrip...). "Tha 70" is one of the few places on earth you can experience a man who swears he is Jesus (huh-sha-na-na...he-comin'-on-tha-70...) and a Caucasian (I'm being "politically correct") woman trying to figure out what in the "H-E-Double Hockey Sticks" is going on (HA!...That's gentrification for ya).

(Getting to tha point) — There are useful fashion influences all over "Tha 70"... You just have to know where to look:

You've seen the homeless lady on "Tha 70" who wears the fur coat in the summer and has that one big lock. Well, as she was cursing me out one day I offered her an egg roll instead of cash...Big Mistake! I noticed something...Layering. There was actually functionality to her "look." You could utilize layering by pairing a printed T-shirt (H&M), and open button-up (any Express store), and a light vest (ZARA of Georgetown). This is a great casual look for everyday and is also very unisex.

Another patron of "Tha 70" gets on the bus every Sunday wearing a long coat suit (You know about that if you're from the South) in some Crayola-inspired color. He usually pairs his suit with a pair of Stacy Adams in faux gator. "Papa P," as I call him, would give T.D. Jakes a run for his money, baby (and most pimps, too). Don't run out and buy a long coat suit, but pay attention to his color choices. They could really work for the spring (NOTICE: I said spring). Light fabrics in pastel and washed-out colors are going to be huge for males and females this spring.

"Tha 70" was also where I saw a lady wearing a full-length red coat with FIERCE stitching detail. She had owned her coat since the early 70s (Honey, they don't make 'em like they used to), but this brought me to another style secret: thrift and vintage stores (I recommend Georgia Avenue Thrift and Annie Cream-cheese in Georgetown).

So the next time you are on the "Tha 70," (stop frontin' like you don't ride it ... I saw you there) open your eyes and pay attention. Inspiration and fashion are all around you. Muah! Muah! ... I'm out (no pun intended).

If you have any comments, suggestions or you have simply seen someone on campus looking a HOT MESS, e-mail me at george_v_jorge@yahoo.com

WORK IT OUT

Belly Dancing for Exercise, Fun

BY CHARI STAPLES
Contributing Writer

They all may have different reasons for attending, but the six women learning the ancient art of belly dancing agree on one thing — it's a lot of fun.

"I enjoy it very much," said Anne Dempsy who, at 83, is the eldest in the class. "I needed the exercise."

And that is exactly what Allyson Finnegan, executive director of Sahara Dance, wants to hear. This year is the first time the center has offered belly dancing, and attendance has been down to a small group, something Finnegan would like to see change.

"I think many people don't realize that belly dancing can be a lot of fun," Finnegan said. "It's a wonderful form of exercise and it uses muscles you didn't even know you had."

The origins of the belly dance include being spread by Alexander the Great as an ancient ritual performed by high priestesses, and it was a part of traditional birthing practices of the ancient Middle East.

Jessica Fern, a senior psychology major, has always been interested in dance and is eager to learn new styles.

"Belly dancing never actually comes to mind when I think of dance," Fern said. "But the more I think about it, the more interesting it becomes. Since it originated in the Middle East, I think it would be very exciting to learn how to do."

Finnegan said the idea to offer belly dancing classes came from her grandmother, who was a suc-

cessful dancer.

Adeela Muhammad, a freshman biology major, is one of the six participants in the class. She decided to take belly dancing classes to impress her family. Many women in her family are already familiar with the ancient dance.

"Belly dancing is a traditional Middle Eastern dance and it is a part of my culture," Muhammad said. "I decided to learn the dance so that I can become more connected with members of my family and my culture. I look forward to the classes every week because I need the exercise and

it."

Deborah Smithson, a Petworth neighborhood resident, has found the classes to be meaningful and worthwhile. Last week, the 24-year-old decided to try belly dancing as a means of exercise.

"I have high blood pressure and I am trying to lose weight," Smithson said. "I find the music to be very soothing and I love the movement. It is rhythmic and graceful, which makes it easy to learn."

After one class of learning to use a veil in dance and isolating different body parts for the dance, Smithson said it was difficult the first time, but she intends to continue the classes.

Next to Smithson was Brenda Banks, who was on her second class. After suffering a stroke seven years ago, Banks said she joined after her husband encouraged her.

"It's really not that easy for me," she admitted. "I began belly dancing at another location a few years ago, and it was easy then. Now, it's a little harder for me on my right side, but I find it good exercise. I'm coming back, too."

Former Tenleytown neighborhood resident Linda Ferrant travels from Silver Spring, Md. for the classes. She and her mother joined early on, and even though her mother is in Florida for the winter, Ferrant said she comes by herself because the class is enjoyable.

"I love every aspect of dancing," she said. "And I know everyone says this, but it is good exercise. I can put on music and dance anywhere. It beats jogging any day."



Photo courtesy of morjuelle.com

Belly dancing has its origins in Middle Eastern culture and is a fun, effective form of exercise for those looking for a change.

excitement."

Finnegan encourages more college students to become a part of her belly dancing classes because of the many benefits that come with it.

"I think some people have been a bit hesitant to join," Finnegan said of the class, which has been ongoing for the past six weeks. "But I really do think the people who have been taking it have found that it's worthwhile. It's been slow to develop, but we're hoping more people decide to try

This Week in Fashion

Christina Aguilera Inspires Jewelry Designer

According to the *Women's Wear Daily*, British jeweler Stephen Webster is introducing a new sterling silver collection inspired and fronted by Christina Aguilera. The new line is set to be decked out with the finest gemstones, sterling silver and 18-karat gold. In total, the line will offer 50 styles of rings, cuffs, pendants and earrings designed to resemble Gothic cathedral windows. WWD.com reported The first ad campaign featuring Aguilera will appear in the April issue of *W*, WWD's sister publication. "She was a real coup for us," Webster said of the 27-year-old pop star. "She's our longest-term regular client and the right age for the brand. We think she's in the most glamorous period of her life right now, and she is the main source of inspiration behind the collection."

Prada Still Pushes for Stock

The Italian company plans to put Prada SpA in the Milan Stock Exchange in either June or November, pending a meeting with consultants. Sources value Prada's worth at 4 billion to 5 billion euros. The slowdown in becoming a public offering is rumored to be low consumer spending in the United States and Europe. According to WWD, "Prada spokesman said in December the company was in perfect condition to list this year, referencing a track record of solid growth in sales and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization over the last three years and a strong internal management team. He added that Prada sales were projected to grow at least 20 percent for 2007."

Ralph Lauren Creates JC Penney Brand

Polo Ralph Lauren Corporation is venturing into the mainstream market by selling a new brand, titled American Living, via the Web. Unlike other Polo products, the brand will have American flags and bald eagles as its logo. This is definitely a step up in prices for JC Penney. According to *New York Magazine*, "The new line will also be about 15 percent more expensive than Penney's current private-label merchandise, but Penney's people think it will fill a void in the company's 'assortment.'"

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WAKE UP!

BY JOSHUA THOMAS
Managing Editor

First, I have to apologize for being late on this one (although I'm sure you understand tardiness). But, last Tuesday, Feb. 12, marked the 20-year anniversary of Spike Lee's sophomore effort "School Daze."

For many, this film served as a first glimpse into the world of historically black colleges and universities. Like many of Lee's earlier projects, it was overly ambitious in trying to take on too many issues at once and attempted to send an overwhelming plethora of messages. However, this musical drama became a cult classic and one of Lee's most celebrated projects.

Being a student at the Mecca, it's always surprising to find out that one of your peers has missed out on this classic. Some students even treat the experience of "School Daze" almost as an HBCU rite of passage, and deservedly so. Many of the issues and themes that were exposed in the film are still as relevant today as they were then.

"You're just a jigg-a-boo, tryin' to find something to do!"

"Well you're a wanna-be, wanna be better than me!"

For those of you who were completely thrown off by that let me first say, GO WATCH THE MOVIE! I digress; those lines were taken from the song and production "Good or Bad Hair," which is a fantasy altercation between the light-skinned Gamma Rays in the film and their darker adversaries. That scene served as an apex for one of the major themes of the film: colorism.

Colorism, rooted in the house slave versus the field slave divide in antebellum America, has reared its ugly head in modern times. This is evident daily when you switch on your TVs to see that light-skinned black people are more prominently featured and disproportionately cast over their darker counterparts in everything from commercials to music videos.

As recent as 2005, a report was done by "20/20" on the matter of colorism. One portion of the report was an investigation in which people were shown photographs of people from various backgrounds and were asked to guess their intelligence solely on the photo. The results overwhelmingly showed that even black subjects deemed people of darker hues less intelligent.

"School Daze" and "A Different World" (which gained popularity in its second season in '88) are often credited with the HBCU surge of the early 90s. Many 80s babies, like myself, were offered their first glimpse of a place where young, intelligent, socially-aware black people were all coming together. For me, and for many, the notion of a place like this seemed like a utopia for black minds. Yet, at our current place in time, many of these institutions are in trouble. It is a weird twist of fate that Morris Brown College (Trivia side note: Morehouse, Spelman and Clark were afraid of how Spike Lee was going to depict them, so he was kicked off their campuses. Subsequently, he moved filming to nearby Morris Brown College) lost its accreditation in 2002.

Unfortunately, MBC is not the only school in peril. Many schools ranging from the historically rich and popular universities like Fisk to smaller institutions like Michigan's only HBCU, Barber-Scotia College, have been experiencing difficulties. Even Texas Southern University and Florida A&M University were put on probation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

In last Wednesday's edition of *The Hilltop*, an editorial asked the question whether or not the HBCU will be around in 2016. HBCUs have assisted in molding some of the most prolific minds of our time and we cannot let them die. Although they do serve a different purpose now than they did at their inception, the truth is that they do serve a vital and unique purpose.

I guess you can call this my call for action.

WAKE UP!

If you need help waking up or have some suggestions hit me up at jashthomas2@gmail.com.

He Said... She Said

Viewpoints from Both Sides of the Gender Divide

This week's issue:

Exes

by Joshua Thomas & Jada Smith

Exes are exes for a reason, so why should a new significant other be threatened by a past relationship that didn't work?

The most cliché relationship advice in the world is that every good relationship has to be built on a solid foundation of trust. However, that cliché advice is applicable to nearly every issue that affects relationships — including this one.

If you cannot trust your partner around his or her ex, then really that means you plainly cannot trust your partner. The whole instance of an existing relationship with an ex is just an avenue for someone to display one's trust issues. Honestly, this whole issue sounds like an illustration of insecurity to me.

This is not to say that everyone can maintain a friendship with an ex, but those who can maintain a healthy relationship with an ex should. During the course of a healthy intimate relationship, both partners learn a lot about one another, share experiences and become very close just as friends would.

It's hard enough trying to find people who are true friends. I don't mean colleagues, co-workers, floormates, or other general acquaintances, but "true" friends. Why get rid of a close friend because their romantic relationship is gone or due to a new mate's insecurities?

Studies show that it is possible for exes to go from Splitsville to strong friendships, according to sociologist Constance Ahrons, a former University of Southern California professor who studied 98 split couples.

People break their romantic ties for several reasons and rarely is it because the pair just do not like each other any longer. "Maybe their lives or their values have changed, but they still may like each other," Ahrons said of her research.

But even Ahrons' research states that meaningful relationships are only possible for a select few split couples. With that being said, I am not advocating for everyone to reunite and attempt to be best buds with his or her ex. For the majority of break-ups, that just isn't going to happen. I'm simply saying that it is possible and shouldn't be shied away from just because it is difficult or taboo.

Exes. We all have them. No matter if the relationship between you and that person ended peacefully or concluded with World War III, an ex is an ex for a reason, and they should stay that way. I've heard guys say plenty of times, "Me and my ex are still really good friends and we talk all the time." My response to that is, "WHY?!" especially if there is someone else important in your life now. As far as I'm concerned, exes are nothing but trouble.

It seems as though a lot of people look at their past relationships with rose colored glasses, meaning they only seem to remember the good things about that person instead of the reason they broke up in the first place. Guys, let me ask you this question: if your girlfriend remained close with her ex, would that be OK with you? I only ask this because the mere fact that you were in a relationship with that person means that you had feelings for them and a physical attraction at some point that may still be there. Not to mention the amount of history they have together...who are you more willing to let go easier, someone you've been with for years or someone you've been with for months? I can't speak for all women, but just the thought that she's still on your mind bothers me.

Janice Levine, Ph.D, author of "Why Do Fools Fall in Love," says, "To keep your life moving in a healthy direction, you need to determine where an ex fits into your life, or he'll continue to affect you and your future relationships." If you continue to hang out with an ex, spend time with an ex's family, have lengthy conversations about life with an ex, it's not too farfetched of an idea that one day you might happen to get physical with that person again and maybe even rekindle what the two of you used to have.

By no means am I trying to discount those who have managed to maintain a strictly platonic relationship with their ex. That's worthy of applause, but for the rest of us out there who may find it hard to suppress feelings for a former flame, I speak from experience when I say leave him/her alone!

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