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WEATHER

Established
1924

THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO. 6

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Tuesday, September 2, 2008

Tuesday Notebook

CAMPUS

TRYING OUT FOR THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY GOSPEL CHOIR TAKES PREPARATION. FIND OUT IF YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES.

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EDITORIALS & PERSPECTIVES

JOHN F. KENNEDY COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR BARACK OBAMA'S EXISTENCE. FIND OUT MORE AND HOW JFK'S BROTHER HAS HELPED OBAMA'S CAUSE.

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LIFE & STYLE

BLOGGING IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE POPULAR AMONG STUDENTS. SEE WHO'S BLOGGING AND HOW YOU CAN GET STARTED.

PAGE 8

Three Years Later Gustav Reignites Katrina Fears

BY ANGELA P. SMITH
Staff Writer

Hurricane Gustav made landfall on the Gulf Coast yesterday, bringing strong winds and sheets of rain west of New Orleans – an area still recovering from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina three years ago.

Gustav was downgraded from a Category 3 to a Category 2 hurricane when its winds weakened to 110 mph yesterday morning, but forecasters remained concerned that the storm could still be damaging with a surge of 14 feet.

"We're not out of the woods yet," New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said on CNN, as worries were focused on whether the surge could overwhelm the city's levees.

FEMA estimated there were only about 10,000 people left in New Orleans. Almost two million people decided to leave southern Louisiana in the days before Gustav's arrival, due to the state's mandatory evacuation efforts.

"This is a serious storm," Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal said in a press conference Saturday to the people who remained in New Orleans despite the government warnings.

Nagin also ordered a dawn-to-dusk curfew, enforced by police and National Guardsmen, and he promised that looters would be dealt with harshly.

Lauren Woulard, a junior public relations major from New Orleans, feels the U.S. government has taken the precautions necessary to avoid a repeat of the disaster that followed Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The storm flooded 80 percent of New Orleans and killed more than 1,600 people along the Gulf Coast.

"More officials have gone door to door to make sure people have evacuated, so they're definitely doing a bet-



A mandatory evacuation was enforced by Mayor Ray Nagin as Hurricane Gustav made its way toward New Orleans over the weekend.



KATRINA vs. GUSTAV

Hurricane Katrina

Monday, Aug. 29, 2005

Started as a Category 1 storm then became a Category 3 when it reached landfall.

Fatalities: More than 1,600 confirmed dead.

Damages: \$81.2 billion

Government Response: President Bush declared a state of emergency in regions of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi on Aug. 27, but did not include any of Louisiana's coastal parishes. New Orleans Mayor Nagin orders a mandatory evacuation for residents of New Orleans. For those who cannot leave the city, he ordered the Superdome as shelter of last resort, after the hurricane hits, Bush takes a tour of New Orleans.

Hurricane Gustav

Monday, Sept. 1, 2008

Started as a Category 2 hurricane then weakened to a Category 1 four hours after landfall.

Fatalities: Over 90 deaths in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica

Damages: Not yet known

Government Response: Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal declared a state of emergency, activating between 3,000 and 8,000 members of the National Guard. New Orleans Mayor Nagin issued a mandatory evacuation for all residents Aug. 30. State officials decide not to use the Superdome for shelter. Bush flies to Texas to oversee the emergency efforts along the Gulf Coast.

ter job," Woulard said.

"Mayor Nagin has a lot on his shoulders. He can't afford to mess up this time."

Meanwhile, the storm is giving Republicans the chance to redeem themselves from the Bush Administration's failed handling of Hurricane

Katrina.

Sen. John McCain, the Republican presidential nominee, altered plans for the Republican National Conven-

tion this week in St. Paul, Minn.

Parties were either canceled or turned into hurricane relief fundraisers, with speeches by George W. Bush, Dick Cheney and Arnold Schwarzenegger scrapped.

Yesterday's session, which was initially scheduled to run for nearly seven hours, only included basic proceedings.

"Owing to the fact that [McCain] has asked us to take our Republican hats off and put our American hats on, tomorrow's program will be business only, and we'll refrain from any political rhetoric that would be traditional in an opening session of a convention," said Rick Davis, campaign manager for John McCain in a press conference Sunday.

Davis added that the convention plans for the rest of the week would be made as the storm is assessed.

But Brittany Baham, a sophomore English major and resident of New Orleans, isn't moved by the Republicans' call to end convention celebrations. She sees it more as an opportunity for them to makeover their image.

"Bush just doesn't want to sound or look any more foolish," Baham said. "They [Republicans] just want to see what is going to happen with Gustav. The convention was clearly postponed to cover themselves from Katrina; it's not sincere."

The storm also halted offshore oil production in the region, which accounts for a quarter of U.S. oil output.

Yesterday, crude oil prices fell by more than \$4 to \$111.26 on the New York Mercantile Exchange as companies including BP, Chevron and Exxon Mobile evacuated thousands of workers.

Gustav has already killed more than 90 people in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica.

McCain Chooses Female Running Mate

BY JADA F. SMITH
Nation & World Editor

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) made the official announcement on Friday – Alaskan Governor Sarah Palin was added to the November ballot as Vice Presidential nominee for the Republican Party. The John McCain Web site dubbed Palin as the "Fresh Perspective" the Republican Party needs.

"Well, it's always, though, safer in politics to avoid risk, to just kind of go along with the status quo. But I didn't get into government to do the safe and easy things," said Palin in a speech after being announced as McCain's running mate.

Sarah Louise Heath Palin, 44, currently serves as the 11th Governor of Alaska and is the former Chairperson for the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Before assuming either position, she served as the Mayor of Wasilla, Alaska and prior to that was a city council member in Wasilla.

"She's exactly who this country needs to help me fight the same old Washington politics of 'me first and country second,'" McCain said at a rally in Dayton, Ohio. "She's got the grit, integrity, good sense and fierce devotion to the common good that is exactly what we need in Washington today."

Some, however, believe that the Republican Party's pick of Palin was primarily motivated by an effort to win over Hillary Clinton supporters who are still sour about the Democratic Party's nomination of Sen. Barack Obama.

"I think [McCain] thinks Hillary Clinton voters would just come on to his side because there's a woman on the ticket," said Political Analyst Ron Jackson. "However, in 1984, Geraldine Ferraro ran for Vice President of the United



John McCain recently announced Sarah Louise Heath Palin as his running mate in the November elections. Previously, Palin served as the Mayor of Wasilla, Alaska.

States on the democratic ticket, so that's been done before as far as a woman being on the ticket."

Jackson continued, "I think that she is a gamble, a political gamble. McCain has basically been flaunting his campaign on Obama's inexperience and then chooses this hockey mom and PTA (Parent Teachers Association) President as his VP."

Cameron Lewis, President of the HU College Republicans, sees McCain's pick of Governor Palin as risky, yet feasible.

"I think there are definitely pros

and cons to that selection. I think it may have been a little too optimistic from the McCain camp to try to gain the feminine vote...but as far as legislation is concerned, she has some very interesting views on how we can solve the energy crisis; I think that's a smart choice," Lewis said.

He says that some may see choosing Palin as a contradiction against the campaigns extensive attacks on Obama's lack of experience because Palin has very little as well. But Senator McCain

> See **PALIN**, Page 3

School of Communications Job Fair Offers Recruiters, Networking Opportunities

BY SHIVONNE FOSTER
Campus Editor

Detailed planning for the Annual School of Communications Job Fair Conference is underway as the September 5 application deadline quickly approaches.

Brittani Moncrease is making plans to be in the company of many of her peers in the communications field, to meet with recruiters from several media outlets and graduate programs.

"You have big media companies from all around and so it's really a good way to network," said Moncrease, a junior broadcast journalism major.

She added, "This year I'm pretty excited because I'll be a junior and I get to have interviews."

The job fair will be held in Blackburn on October 23 to 24, and boasts recruiters from well-known companies such as Bloomberg, Discovery Communications, Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, ESPN, Inc. and *The New York Times*.

For students interested in meeting with recruiters from communications-related graduate programs, schools such as University of Southern California Annenberg School, American University and CUNY Graduate School of Journalism will be in attendance.

Carol Dudley, the Job Fair coordinator, believes that now is the time students should be preparing resumes and work samples for recruiters.

"Research the companies," Dud-



Every year the School of Communications job fair attracts a myriad of students.

ley said. "We do give descriptions of companies but we want you to do your homework."

Dudley suggests students first introduce themselves to recruiters, then clearly explain their goals. At the end of a meeting, students should request business cards and follow up.

"Follow up with a 'thank-you' card no later than two weeks after the job fair," she said. She suggests reminding recruiters of who you are by enclosing another resume copy with the card.

> See **FAIR**, Page 3

National Exchange Students Reap Benefits at Howard

BY SHELLEY BRUCE
Contributing Writer

You may have seen them on campus. With a Howard University map close at hand and wandering eyes, "newbie" seems to be plastered to their foreheads. Yet, they appear too old to be freshman and once you begin talking to them, you find they are not transfer students either.

A myriad of intrigued and confused reactions is the norm until it is explained that they are participants in the National Student Exchange (NSE) organization.

Brittany Jones is a new transfer exchange student currently acquainting herself with the campus through NSE.

A junior from California State University, Los Angeles, Jones chose to leave her comfort zone and fly across the country to Howard.

"I heard about it from a friend and decided to further investigate," the Oakland, Calif. na-

tive said. "I was surprised when I got a call from Wanda Jones [HU's NSE program director] telling me that she would give me six months at Howard."

Since 1968, over 90,000 students across the country have taken advantage of NSE's benefits. Also a part of HU's domestic exchange program, which includes Consortium and HU Independent Exchange, the National Student Exchange program is "just a resource to experience other cultures without going outside of the U.S.," Jones said.

She continued, "I think more HU students should do it, but it is difficult since most go international."

Although students at Howard rarely use NSE, Howard's requirements are quite simple. Applicants must be at least in sophomore standing, maintain a 2.5 minimum GPA, provide two letters of reference and a \$105 application fee.

Successful students will be

able to choose from any of the 171 universities nationwide, including campuses in the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NSE students may participate in the program from a semester to a year.

Jones saw NSE at Howard as something fun and exciting, but also as a chance to develop her future goals.

"I am basically a performer at heart but I want to get into business," she said. "I really want to find an interest other than dance and I want to find out what I want as my career."

Students like Jones use NSE as a chance to focus in on future aspirations and to take advantage of classes they may not have been able to take at their own institutions.

Afia-Dawn Opantri, a graduate student from the University of California, Berkeley and current MBA student at Howard, admits to using NSE her senior year as a way to take advantage

of Howard's unique resources.

"Looking at the classes, I liked the African American focus their communications department offered that was limited at Berkeley," Opantri said.

Opantri also said her experience as an undergrad led her to apply and accept Howard for graduate study.

"It's really exciting to meet a lot of different kinds of people," Jones added. "I think it will be a whole new experience academically and socially."

Jones acknowledges that the experience at Howard will be a lot different from that of CSU, but admits that "change is good. It's hard at first, but you'll never regret it."

She said she looks forward to trying out for the Bisonettes, volunteering for Homecoming or modeling in the fashion show to best utilize her time at Howard.

If you are interested in participating in the National Student Exchange program, you can visit



Oscar Merida IV - Photo Editor

Brittany Jones is just one student participating in the National Student Exchange organization, which is offered to 171 universities nationwide.

Howard's Web site and search keyword "National Student Exchange." Further information and requirements can also be found on the national Web site at www.NSE.org.



Oscar Merida IV - Photo Editor

The Howard Gospel Choir (HGC) is hosting its auditions September 3-4 at 6:30 p.m. in Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel. HGC members who view the organization as a "safe haven" and great environment, advise prospective members to be sure they are willing to make the sacrifices necessary.

Gospel Auditions Ignite Nerves, Anticipation

BY TILISHA BROWN
Contributing Writer

Midway through the religious spiritual "Amazing Grace," one wrong note immediately explains the terror etched on Dorothy Bazemore's face.

After practicing day and night for the past week, Bazemore, a junior business marketing major, still does not feel 100 percent confident in her preparation for the upcoming Howard Gospel Choir (HGC) auditions.

Auditions are to be held in the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel on September 3-4, at 6:30 p.m., and nerves are on edge in anticipation for this event.

A seven-page packet has been prepared by HGC President Kristen Taylor for prospective members.

This packet includes a brief history, the accomplishments, rules and regulations and a step-by-step guide as to how the audition process will work.

The most important thing that the leaders of the HGC want prospects to think about before deciding whether or not to audition is that the group is a Christ-centered organization.

An important question that those in leadership positions would have prospects ask themselves is, "Why do I want to be a member?"

Taylor said, "The program is incredibly demanding. Auditioners should ask themselves if they realistically have the time and are they willing to make this sacrifice for Christ?"

Current members reflect on their au-

dition experience and what it felt like coming before the leadership of the organization for the first time.

Comfortable, relaxed and warm were all adjectives that came to these members' minds when recalling the memory.

Musical Director Clifton Ross III, who has undergone the audition process himself, emphasizes that the process is designed to help prospects perform to the best of their abilities.

According to Ross, it is a process that involves making sure that the person auditioning is as relaxed as possible and is comfortable within their element.

However, Ross said that auditions should not be taken lightly.

He wants prospects to keep in mind that the HGC is a very serious organization and that any prospective member should approach the audition with a performance that reflects this understanding.

"We just want to balance the intensity of the audition by helping them to not be so uncomfortable that they are not able to perform," Ross said.

Junior political science major, Odis Scales, shared some tips that he would give to prospective members for the upcoming try-outs.

"Figure out what song fits your voice and become as familiar and as comfortable with the song as possible so that it comes out naturally," Scales said. "Don't feel intimidated."

Bazemore understands this concept. "I know that song selection is key," she said. "But I have selected my song and I am still nervous."

Despite her nerves, Bazemore does not plan to give up. She believes that the choir will give her a great foundation as far as learning more about herself and about her religion. This is something that current members corroborate fully.

HGC members said their experience has enhanced their vocal skills by teaching them proper techniques and how to use their voices to their full potential.

Members also said the group, serving as an environment for learning and growth, has brought them closer to Christ.

The leadership of the HGC assures prospects that the organization has much to offer a Howard student, once granted membership.

The choir travels to various cities nationwide, including Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit and Houston and even international countries such as Italy and Slovakia.

According to it's members, this choir is more than a group of students who share a love for music. For a lot of members, the HGC serves as a safe haven and an environment in which they can be free and be a part of something great.

It gives students a chance to express their love for music and Christ through song.

"Being a part of HGC has helped me academically, socially and spiritually," said junior biology major Kendall Isadore. "It is my home away from home."

The members of the HGC reiterated again and again how important it is that a prospective member be sure that they are choosing to audition for the right reasons.

Campus Briefs

Yale University

According to the *The Hartford Courant*, Elizabeth Turnbull, an incoming graduate student at Yale University, has built her own "Tiny House."

The house stands 8 feet by 18 feet and was built on top of a flatbed trailer. There is a sleeping loft, storage loft, study nook, kitchen, living area and bathroom.

She plans on bringing the miniature home to Yale with her and is in talks with the university and the town of New Haven, Conn. about where she will be able to put the transportable house. Turnbull plans on powering the house with energy generated from three solar power panels. This will make the energy both renewable and free.

Turnbull told the *The Courant*, "The tiny house has taken me by the hand and led me through the process of building it. You know you are doing something and the process takes over. Your arms are moving because the project has almost gotten inside your body and told you what to do."

University of California

According to the *Associated Press*, a professor at the University of California in Los Angeles resigned over black admissions at the university.

Tim Groseclose teaches political science at UCLA and has made claims that admissions officers are illegally taking race into consideration when they accept students.

Groseclose claims that the university's new "holistic" approach to evaluating applicants allows race to weigh more heavily than is allowed under the constitutional amendment adopted by California in 1996.

The university officials said that admissions evaluations do not see the names or races of students.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported that the number of black students went up this fall, increasing to 230 out of 4,889 freshman. In 2006, 103 black students were admitted as freshmen.

University of Central Arkansas

According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the president of the University of Central Arkansas, Lu Hardin has resigned in an attempt to end months of controversy over his bonus pay.

Hardin was under fire for receiving a \$300,000 bonus in May after a secret vote by the university's Board of Trustees. The controversy stirred after it was learned that the memorandum for the bonus was written by Hardin. Initially, the memo was attributed to three members of the Board of Trustees.

Hardin will receive a buyout package of \$700,000, according to the Associated Press. Hardin, who is a former state senator, had been the university president since 2002.

University Trustee Rush E. Harding III told the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* that Hardin put the interest of the university first by resigning. "He wanted it to go away," Harding said.

-Compiled by Eboni Farmer

The Hilltop is accepting applications!!

Due: September 3 @ 3:00 p.m.

Pick-Up and Drop-Off in Blackburn Suite 117

Positions:

Assitant Photo Editor

Staff Writer

Copy Editor

Staff Photographer

Editorial Office Assistant

Graphics Editor

THE HILLTOP

Howard Job Fair Fast Approaching

Continued from front, FAIR

Dudley encourages all students in the communications field to attend the fair, with the exception of students who have concentrations in speech, language and pathology.

"They're in the allied health field and the fair is not appropriate for them," she said.

However, Dudley noted that the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences hosts a fair that the School of Communications will also post notices for.

In addition to Howard students, applicants travel from far and wide for the fair from schools like American University, Hampton University, Delaware State University, Texas Southern University and University of Maryland College Park.

Dudley credits the large draw of the fair to the organization behind it.

"It's the largest pool of qualified minority candidates at a communications conference in the country," she said. "It produces such a fine pool of well-prepared students and that's what keeps [recruiters] coming."

Dudley stresses that it is important for students to realize that most students don't get jobs

offered on-the-spot at the fair, but says it's still "very important to take this seriously."

She said, "Every year another alumni comes back with another company recruiting."

She pointed to companies like NBC Universal, Fox News Corporations, Washington Post, Dow Jones and Katz Media as being top job recruiters of Howard students and alumni.

As a range of classifications are welcome to the job fair, students may attend with different goals in mind depending on where they are in their collegiate careers.

According to Dudley, seniors "need to recognize this is the time to demonstrate where they're work-ready as opposed to training-ready."

The beginning of the application process, for many, may illustrate how the individual will perform in upcoming interviews.

"The benefit of the job fair is that it gives the opportunity to make a couple of mistakes that need to be corrected for spring semester," Dudley said.

For underclassmen, Dudley recommends making contacts in the industry and seeking internship opportunities.

"The pressure for freshmen is less great," she said. "But

they should still be professionals."

This professional setting lends itself to an emphasis on professional dress, according to Dudley.

She describes this attire as a dark suit, with limited jewelry, and minimal make up for females. "No outfit to make you stand out, that's scary for me," Dudley said.

In the past, Dudley had professional attire donated to students did not have any available to them.

"I don't want any student to feel embarrassed if they don't have professional clothes," she said. "You want to create an impression of having a lot of integrity to any person meeting you."

Dudley suggests students display "taste and modesty." She advises students to "sell competence, sell what's on paper."

In addition to being an opportunity for interviews and networking, the job fair also serves as a conference with several industry-related forums, including "Climbing the Entertainment Corporate Ladder: Advice from the Top," a public relations industry sponsored panel and a radio panel.

Applications for the fair are located in the School of Communications.

OFFICE OF
STUDENT
ACTIVITIES & HUSA

Student Organizational Fair
Monday, September 8, 2008
10am - 2pm

Recognized organizations can purchase tables for \$25 starting August 25th in Cramton Auditorium Box Office. Space is limited so purchase your tables soon!

Sales end Friday, September 5th.
All Student Organizations please make sure that you are registered with the Office of Student Activities; this is the only way you can participate.

These are the items that are needed:
Typed Census Form signed by your advisor
Membership Roster

Deadline to register your organization for the 2008/09 school year is September 3, 2008 by 7:00 p.m. NO EXCEPTIONS

McCain Makes VP Announcement

Continued from front, PALIN

has enough experience for the both of them.

"McCain has so much experience that he almost stands alone when it comes to foreign policy issues," Lewis added.

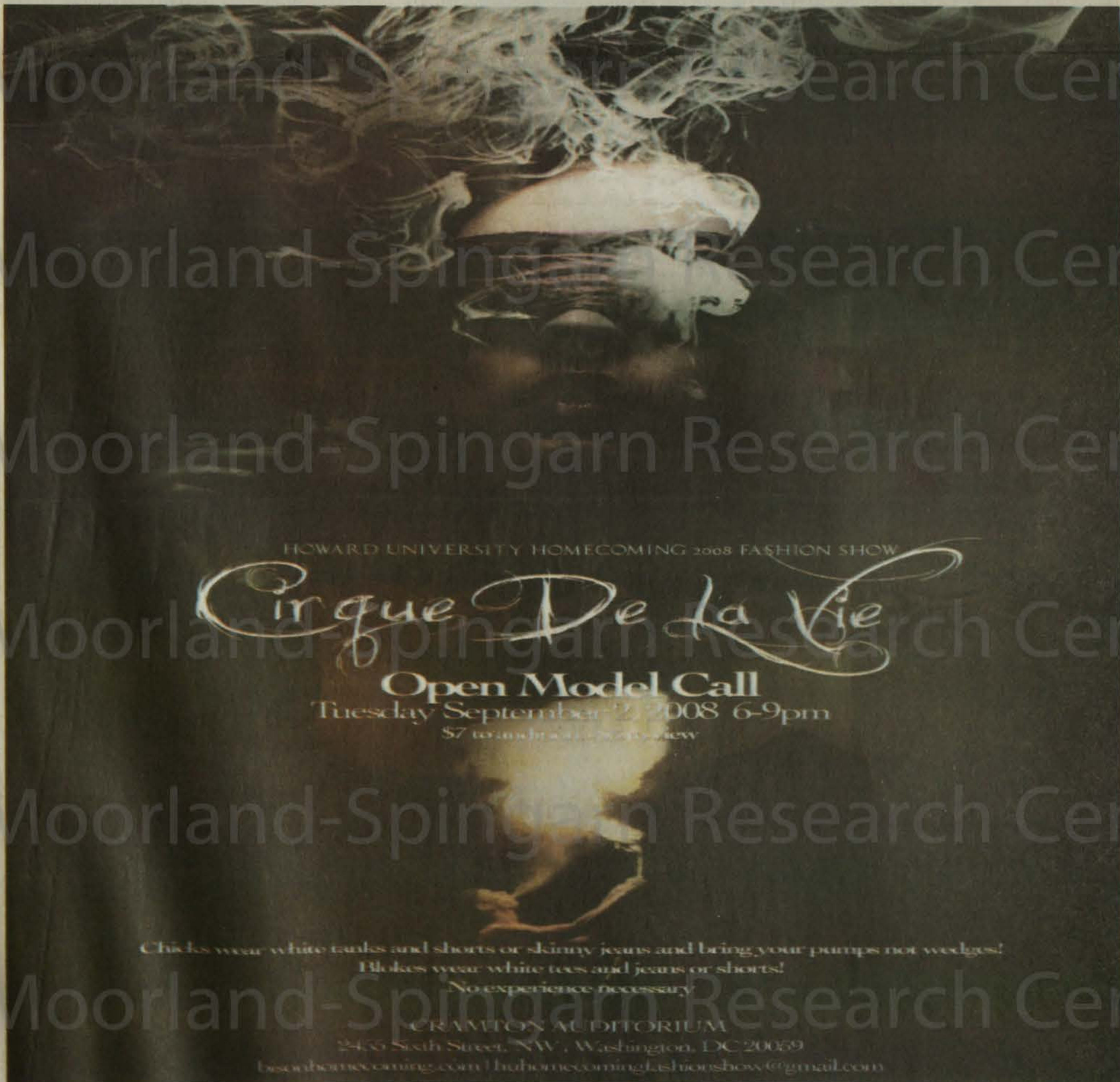
The Governor's office of Alaska is currently under investigation for the termination of Public Safety Commissioner

Walt Monegan. Allegedly, Palin terminated Monegan because he refused to terminate her former brother-in-law's position as a state police officer. Palin has denied the allegations.

According to CNN.com, Barack Obama gave his response to his opponent's choice saying, "Ultimately, John McCain is at the top of the ticket. As I indicated in my speech last night, I think that he wants to take the country in

the wrong direction. I'm assuming Governor Palin agrees with him in his policies," said Obama. "But the fact that she's been nominated...or will soon be nominated, I think, is one more indicator of this country moving forward."

Palin is married to Todd Palin, an oil production operator in Alaska. They have five children, and the eldest, Track, is a U.S. soldier scheduled to leave for Iraq soon.



HOWARD UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING 2008 FASHION SHOW

Cirque De La Vie

Open Model Call
Tuesday September 2, 2008 6-9pm
\$7 to attend with a party view

Chicks wear white tanks and shorts or skinny jeans and bring your pumps not wedges!
Blokes wear white tees and jeans or shorts!
No experience necessary

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12 Million Video Game Users Targeted in Fight for Youth Vote: Rock the Vote

BY CHRISTINA L. BURTON
Business & Technology Editor

The Rock the Vote Campaign is trying out a new venue to get more voters involved in this election: the video game community.

For the first time in Rock the Vote's 18-year history, video game console owners, specifically Xbox 360 owners, will be able to participate in presidential polls, voice their election opinions and register to vote.

According to Executive Director of Rock the Vote Heather Smith, Xbox LIVE, which connects about 12 million video gamers in 26 countries, became part of the plan because the youth vote needs to be stronger.

"Xbox is a natural partner to help us reach out to youth voters," Smith said. "To realize our goal of registering 2 million young Americans by this fall, we need to go where young Americans are, and there's no doubt in our minds that many are on Xbox 360 and Xbox LIVE."

The initiative started on August 25,

the first day of the Democratic National Convention in Denver. Spokesperson

Xbox LIVE is the largest online social network connected to the television, with 12 million members. According to Rock the Vote's press release, if Xbox LIVE were a state, it would be the seventh largest in the United States and would have 20 electoral votes because of its large size.

Along with being able to register to vote, voice their opinions to Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama and Republican candidate Sen. John McCain, and participate in polls, users will also be able to download Rock the Vote public service announcements.

Xbox was at the Democratic National Convention last week, and will also be at Re-

publican National Conventions to promote their new initiative on making the Xbox community safer. Built-in parental controls now allow parents to limit their children's access to parts of the Xbox LIVE community.

"The Xbox LIVE community is

active, vocal and passionate," said Marc Whitten, general manager of Xbox LIVE.

"We're thrilled to partner with Rock the Vote to make it easier than ever for youth voters -- and our members -- to register and be heard."



My 'Mac' Game

BY LINSEY ISSACS
Staff Writer

I'm thinking about purchasing an Apple computer. But perhaps I should wait until their legal woes subside, as it might allow for more inexpensive options in the near future.

This past July, Apple filed a lawsuit against Psystar Corp., based in Miami, FL, for copyright infringement. Psystar, whom many media outlets refer to as the "Mac cloner," sold the OS X Leopard systems with their rather appropriately-titled Open and OpenPro Computers. Both computers are able to run a variety of operating systems including Windows XP and Apple's OS X. As a result of Apple's lawsuit, Psystar countersued the California-based company on Thursday, with a counterclaim stating that Apple's suit violates state and common unfair competition laws. Apple has yet to respond to the suit.

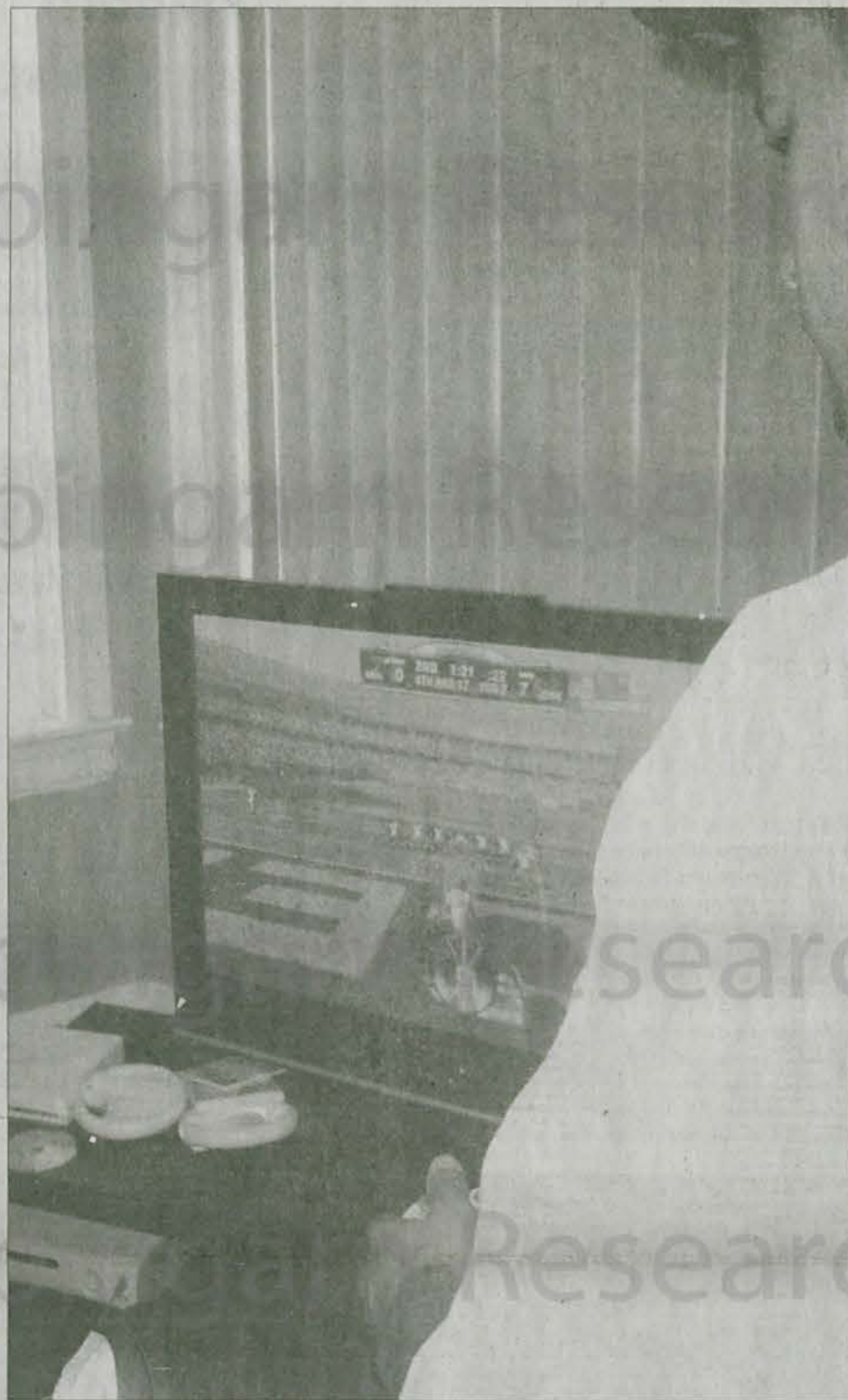
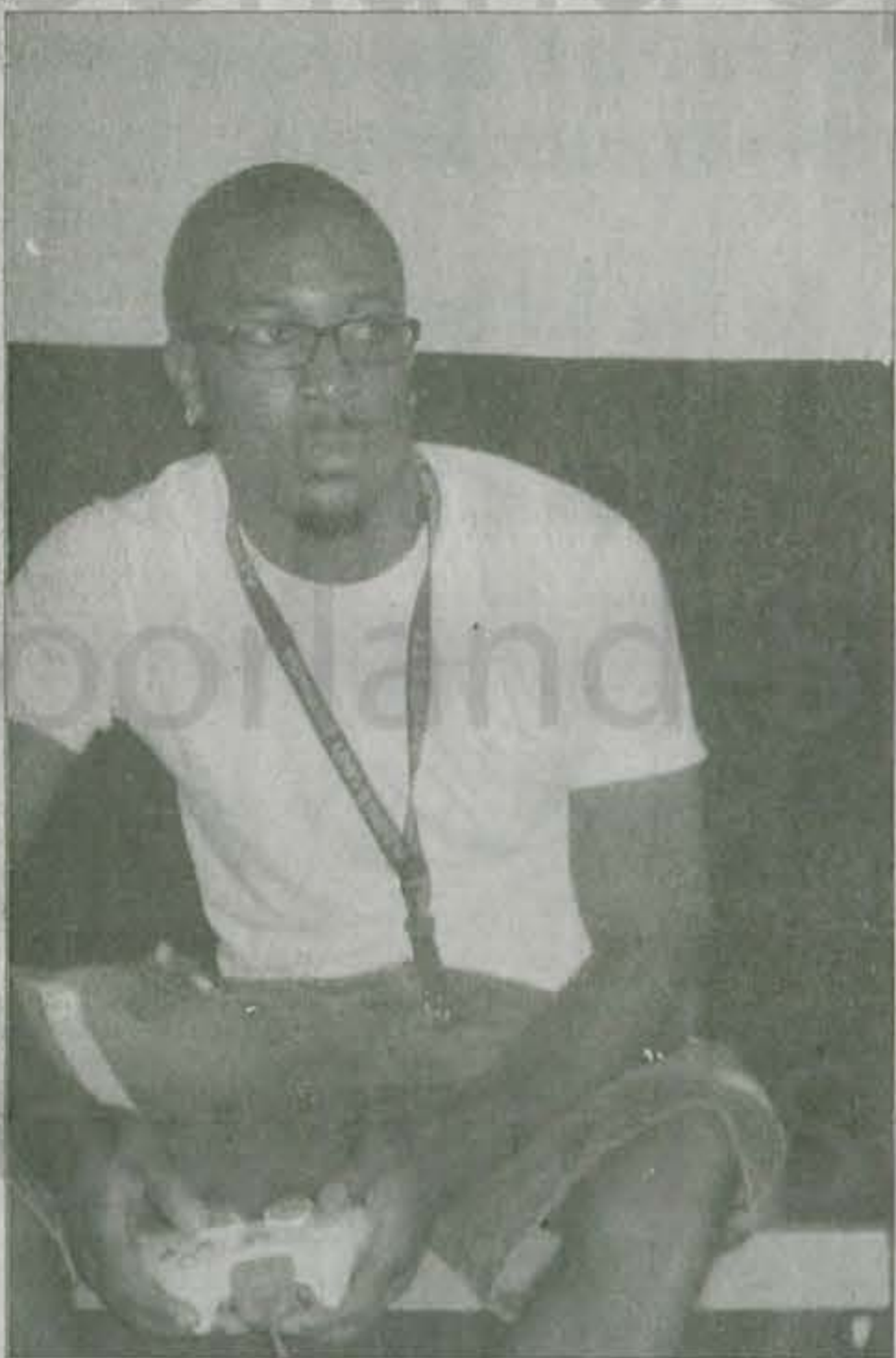
According to their countersuit, Psystar denies that Apple is a "pioneer of the personal computer revolution." Thus, Psystar took the innovative software that Apple created and made it more accessible for consumers so they didn't have to necessarily purchase a Mac.

Apple was found in the midst of another legal claim regarding their OS X systems when they first released the software. Their copyright laws make it illegal for any outside, third-party hardware maker to use the OS platform on computers other than the Mac. However, Psystar claims that although they manufactured computers at a less expensive price for its users, they provided fully-licensed and unmodified copies of the OS software to consumers. They were simply "leveraging open source-licensed codes including Apple's OS" to enable a PC to run different systems including that of a Mac.

Like many other consumers, I wonder how far this case will go. As a struggling college student with a half-working Dell operating on a Windows Vista system, I would enjoy having the pick of the litter when it comes to purchasing a computer with OS X. It was an innovative move for Apple to create such an efficient system, but I'm not sure if it is so smart of Steve Jobs to be selfish with his software. Psystar didn't necessarily 'clone' the software; they just provided it for their consumers on inexpensive hardware.

Psystar has a good chance of settling the case. The firm representing them previously worked on cases against Apple and won; they got \$10 million in 2007 for Burst.com, who filed a suit when Apple violated streaming media patents. This is currently a huge antitrust case against Apple, and if Psystar wins, it could open the door for other PC makers to compete effectively against Apple (which I think is one OS system away from monopolizing), and give consumers more options.

Although an Apple notebook is preferable over other computers due to its sleek look, it's the friendly user-interface that really sells. If that interface was available on my half-working Dell, I'd be happier already.



Christina L. Burton - Business & Technology Editor

Students set up a plays on recently released Madden 2009 on Xbox 360 (above) while his opponent (below) sophomore Tyrus Hairston readies his virtual football team.

Media Professors Arrive to 'Converge' SOC, Graduating Students

BY ANIQUE HAMEED
Contributing Writer

Unprepared is one word that can now be heard dancing across the lips of juniors and seniors in the John H. Johnson School of Communications as they prepare to leap into fast-moving and quickly evolving media world without some of the proper tools to meet the challenges that lay ahead.

With the video revolution of YouTube and the power of the pen now morphing into the power of the keyboard, journalists and media professionals are forced to bannish the idea that newsprint will be around forever. Because of this, students are beginning to feel like the courses and curriculums of the School of Communications need to be revolutionized so they will have the skills necessary to compete in their fields.

Advertising major and senior Daniel Smith has recognized some of

the small efforts put forth by professors to familiarize students with the new technology used in this somewhat untrodden territory of journalism.

"[The School of Communications does] have a new lab with updated computers," Smith said. "They have Photoshop, but not the whole new line of software people work with - just one or two programs. I believe I needed a more extensive knowledge of computer programs, and to be taught about programs, I had to go to the Division of Fine Arts."

Communications majors will be glad to know that their professors who were once, or still are, practicing media revolutionaries have been collectively brainstorming, and are now trying solutions to their convergence problems.

Industry veterans and new Howard University professors Ingrid Sturgis and Craig Herndon believe that they have some definite answers.

"We have all the pieces here,"

Herndon, who is interested in giving students the opportunity to use technology to keep their work and skill level way above that of the average blogger's.

He said he envisions print journalism students walking around with cameras and making videos while broadcast students are publishing online and designing Web sites. Herndon, who retired from the Washington Post after 32 years as a photographer, says that there are even talks of students creating outlets such as a Web-based publications and a regular TV program for student broadcasting so that they can "get a chance to get regular deadline, quick turnaround work experience."

While these two professors are fighting to get students the tools they need for success in the media, they still endorse an "old school" journalism education.

Sturgis, former editor-in-chief of Essence.com and former senior programming manager of AOL Black Voices,

said, "I think it's a combination of traditional journalism skills, a dedication to public service, as well as being able to write for all platforms that will help students realize their career goals."

Ideas for converging the School of Communications are becoming reality now, but there is a process involved with making any idea a physical product, Herndon explained.

"It takes a while to get things on a syllabus, or to make them part of a degree earning program," he said.

Even though it may take time to transform their ideas, Herndon and Sturgis remain hopeful for students' futures.

"I see huge opportunities; just look beyond the storm clouds," Sturgis said. "If you are forward looking, students who graduate in the next two years will have great opportunities."

Herndon teaches photojournalism and Sturgis is a new media professor.

DO YOU HAVE ANY STORY IDEAS FOR THE
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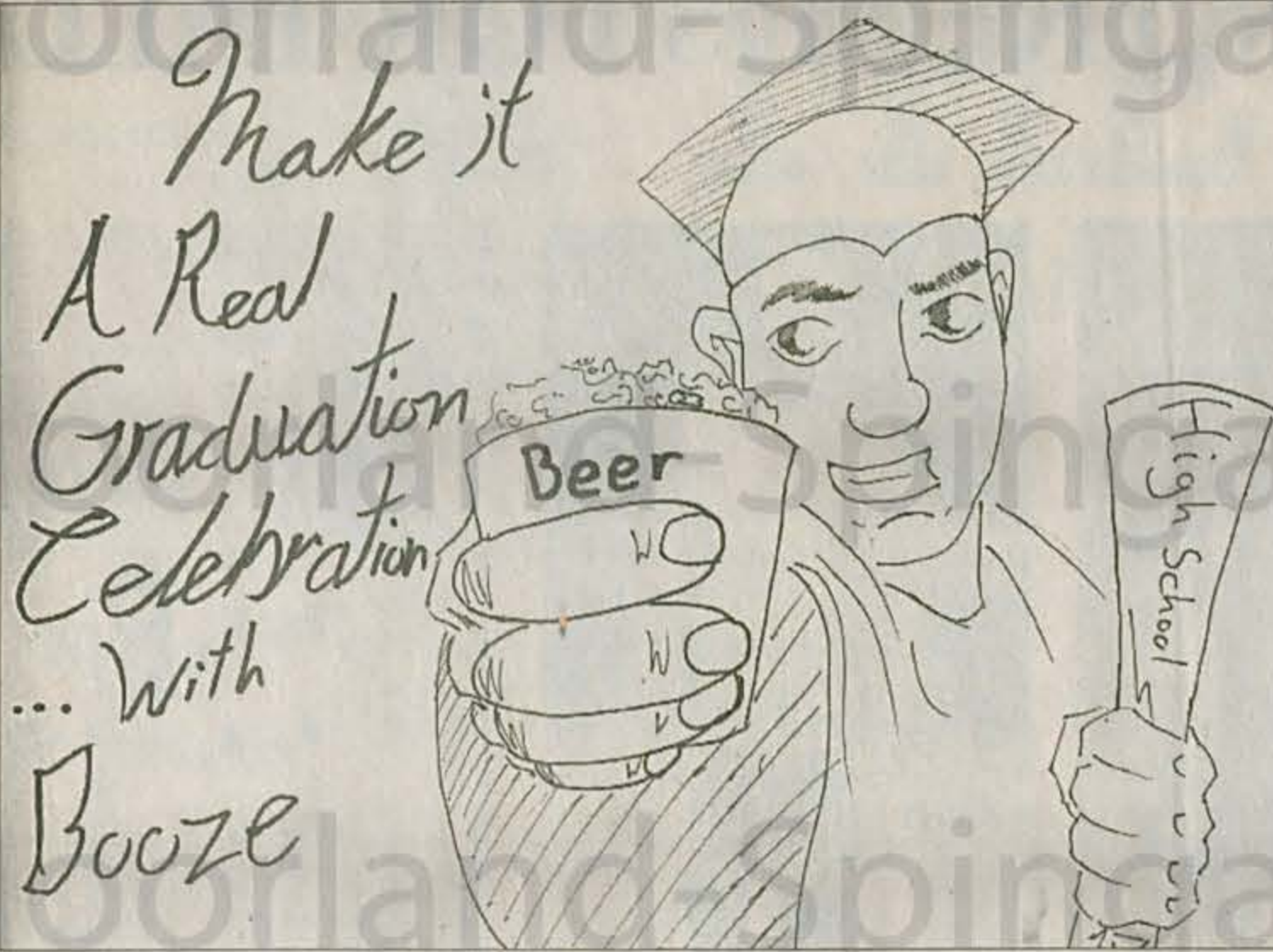


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Charles Metz III - Cartoonist

Kennedy's Appearance in Denver Reflects Character

On Aug. 28, 2008, Democrats made history when they nominated the African-American presidential nominee at the Democratic National Convention. Musicians, actors, mayors, athletes, directors and past presidents from across the country joined to endorse Barack Obama. However, one group in particular stood out: The Kennedy family.

The name "Kennedy" will forever remind our great nation of the value of equality and justice and for this reason, the Kennedy family's endorsement spoke volumes of the Illinois state senator's capability. John F. Kennedy, who served as the U.S. President from 1961 until his assassination in 1963, worked tirelessly to promote civil rights and to abolish injustice in America. Robert F. Kennedy (Bobby), JFK's younger brother and closest aid, served as U.S. Attorney General until 1963 and then served in the Senate until 1965, but was assassinated after he announced his candidacy for president.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (Ted), the only living male of the Kennedy family dynasty, endorsed Barack Obama this past January. The Massachusetts sena-

tor, along with his niece Caroline Kennedy, delivered the endorsement at a turning point in the primary season. Sen. Kennedy, who has served in the Senate since 1962, was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor in May of this year. Despite his illness and recent surgery, Sen. Kennedy made his second appearance since surgery

Obama Sr., was one of the first students to be airlifted to America. Therefore, it is fair to say that without this airlift, Sen. Obama would not have been able to stand in front of the DNC in 2004 and then again in 2008. The airlift that brought Obama's father to this country and the Kennedy's endorsement of Obama are not mere coincidences.

This election has sparked debate amongst the masses and has caused people throughout the country to face the many injustices that still remain.

Barack Obama is deserving of all the accolades he has received and has secured his place in the history books. However, as blacks we tend to overlook our white counterpart's support because we feel they owe us.

Ted Kennedy has greatly helped Obama's candidacy and he continues to deliver the message his brothers died for. The injustices that our ancestors had to endure will never be forgotten and we must still continue to strive and seek what they sought.

However, as people of African descent and as Americans we must also remember to give credit where credit is due.

Our View:

Ted Kennedy's appearance at the DNC highlights his own character and Obama's capability.

at the Democratic National Convention. He encouraged all Americans to relive the dream that his family created and highlighted Obama's immense potential.

Some might wonder how the Kennedy legacy is relevant to Obama's historical nomination, but there are correlations between the presidential hopeful and the most known family in American politics. In the late 1950's, then Sen. John F. Kennedy spearheaded an airlift that brought Kenyan students to America for college education.

Obama's father, Barack

Perspective

Parent Appreciation is Important

This is the problem with the black community now: A black woman says to a black man that Mother's Day is more important than Father's Day. Now don't get me wrong, I am not trying to say that either are unimportant, but rather that they are equally important.

I was sitting in the lounge of my dormitory and I was talking to a female resident about birthday and I said that my birthday is a holiday. She proceeded to say that hers is as well. I told her that my birthday falls on a real holiday and she told me that her birthday is on Mother's

Day. I told her that Mother's Day is not a government holiday therefore it is not a real holiday and that it is an unofficial annual holiday in 29 states. Somehow I also mentioned that my birthday has landed on Father's Day a couple of times as well. After that she made her cut throat statement, saying that "Mother's Day is more important than Father's Day."

I am a product of a single-mother home and I did not appreciate it growing up. However, I did have a father that wanted me to know that he existed and came back into my life. Now we don't have the

best relationship, but if any relationship was free from problems it would not be a relationship worth having. We all need some form of controversy in our lives in order to appreciate the finer things in life.

I want everyone to be on the lookout for a father's appreciation program that is going to be BIG with the help of some of Howard's finest School of Education students.

-Jeremy Flemming,
business management major

Daily Sudoku

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

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

Do you want to write for The Hilltop?

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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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The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

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**TRUE LIFE:
TEXT IS
CHEAP**

BY ALEESA MANN
Life & Style Editor

I've accepted that my generation has replaced the old with the new. We've skipped standing in long lines for online shopping, replaced anticipating snail mail with the immediacy of e-mail and traded our Walkmans for iPods. Over time, it is inevitable that technology will completely change the way we go about our daily lives.

One thing I have yet to come to terms with is our overuse of text messaging. Don't get me wrong, texting is great for little reminders, quick questions and urgent messages. But when it comes to dating, it seems most things are better left said, not texted.

It's hard enough to send the right signals in person, but even harder when you have to send or receive a text message and hope that you get the right signals on your phone. (Despite AT&T's promise of more bars in more places, nothing can get through to my phone in the plaza level of the West Towers, metro stations or underground parking lots.)

Besides, isn't the point of texting supposed to make it so things are easier? Yet, aren't we actually inconveniencing ourselves when it takes longer to text something than to actually say it? Let's not talk about the ambiguities of "emoicons," those smiling faces with sinister undertones. What does ":-)" really mean?

While the argument can be made that chivalry isn't dead, it certainly doesn't exist in the radio frequencies between two cell phones.

Let's revel in the old days, when things were done the old-fashioned way, face-to-face, or at least over the phone. When guys had to work up the nerve to ask a girl out and hope she didn't reject him in his face, or when you called your crush and hoped he or she responded with "Hey, how are you?" when you told them your name instead of "Oh...Who?"

Other relationship milestones, like the first time you're asked out on a date, the first serious talk and the first time you say "I love you" are all cheapened when they happen through the SMS service of your cell phone provider. "Want 2 go on a d8?" "We need to tlk" and "I luv u" should never suffice in a serious relationship, especially without the decency of T9 (Really, it does wonders).

After all, the novelty in pursuing someone you're interested in is all in the actual interaction that takes place: the lingering eye contact, the awkward silences and finishing each other's sentences, none of which happens in a text message.

Nowadays, it seems people are too afraid to put themselves out there, too afraid to put effort into something because they're too afraid their interest may come off as desperate or needy, which plays into the fact that they're too afraid to face rejection, literally. Texting is just another wall of insulation between a person and his or her fear of rejection.

I can't lie, if someone asks me my number, I get the glimmering hope that they'll call, but usually I'll wake up the next day to a flashing red light at the corner of my cell phone and a text message that reads, "Wat u doin?"

TOP FASHION TRENDS FOR FALL



Wild Wild West

In homage to western ranch hands, 90s grunge and standard lumberjack attire, plaid prints are experiencing a resurgence in popularity for both men and women. This classic American print is being used on everything from handbags to button down shirts, as well as dresses, pants and skirts.

Designers like Dolce & Gabbana, Ralph Lauren and Tracey Reese have incorporated plaids into their fall lines along with chain stores like American Eagle and Express.

But the Western influence does not stop at plaid; fringed boots are also slated to be a big hit this fall. Steve Madden and Urban Outfitters offer a variety of boots in this style.



Laced Up

Black lace is giving a new face to this season's must have little black dress.

The sheer fabric is often associated with a melancholic or gothic aesthetic, but this season's take on lace is also very feminine and romantic, often adorned in floral patterns.

From sleeved knee-length dresses to mock-neck and mini skirt styles, black lace definitely comes in all shapes and sizes. Ladies, be sure to match your undergarments with your ensemble.

Less daring than lace dresses are the lace tops, leggings and accessories that have found their way into the fall stock of major retailers such as Bebe and H&M.



The Bad Boy

The staple in every bad boy's closet has always been the leather jacket. Think of a modern twist on the Michael Jackson "Thriller" jacket, but instead of bright red, this season's leather is back in caramel, dark brown and black hues.

Leather jackets have a sort of perennial effect, returning each fall with a slightly different silhouette.

This year's jacket choices come in all different styles.

Embellished with studs, zippers and other hardware, or perhaps none at all, leather jackets are sure to be a necessary piece in every guy or girl's wardrobe.



Star Power

Celebrity lines from two of hip-hop's most iconic stars known for their sartorial discretion as much as their lyrical skills, are scheduled to hit stores this fall. Benjamin Bixby by Andre Benjamin (aka Andre 3000) and Pastelle by Kanye West are both highly anticipated menswear lines debuting this season.

While Benjamin's designs are inspired by retro sports wear and range from chunky cardigans (above) and corduroy blazers to preppy sweaters, West's line includes color-blocked hoodies, lightweight jackets and blazers and bold accessories.

- Compiled by Aleesa Mann, Life & Style Editor
Photos Courtesy of Style.com and Men.Style.com

Blogs Keep Students Connected

BY ALEESA MANN
Life & Style Editor

Myspace and Facebook opened the gateway for a new generation of social networking over the internet. Now, online blogging sites like Wordpress, Livejournal and Blogger bring a whole new level of intimacy to the online world.

"At first I was against blogging," said sophomore Bree Gant, a film production major. "I thought it was just another way for people to whine and get attention. But I realized as a writer, blogging is a good opportunity to not only journal, but get your opinion and writing out there and get some feedback from both experienced writers and interested readers."

"Blogging" is a term coined to express media in which the author speaks candidly about a subject. A "weblog," often shortened to the term "blog," is the Web site that hosts blogging content. Blogs range in subject from personal diaries to political or celebrity gossip forums.

"[Wordpress] puts hassle-free online publishing within reach for whom it would have been too difficult or expensive before," said Matt Mullenwag, the founder of Wordpress, one of the largest blogging software providers on the Internet.

If there is any indication that blogging has recently experienced a jolt in popularity in recent years, it's the growth in downloads of Wordpress software. According to Wordpress.org, in 2006, Wordpress' blogging software was downloaded 1,545,703 times. However, by 2007, that number had jumped

to 3,816, 965 downloads per year.

Similar to social networks, blog networks allow people to connect over common interests. According to Mullenwag, the most popular blog postings center on music, politics, movies, celebrities and personal experiences. Yet there are several other less common subjects that bring together smaller networks.

"There might be only three people in the U.S. interested in knitting Elvis earmuffs, but through blogging they can find each other," Mullenwag said.

Sophomore print journalism major Eunike Hansel blogs specifically on the topic of natural hair care.

"My blog, 'Reach Back & Gro' is used as a means of tracking my natural hair care journey. Sharing that with others and giving tips to help others grow healthy natural hair and to have fun with it too," Hansel said. "The fact that other people can easily access my thoughts and opinions is sometimes daunting. But at the same time, what I write about can also be helpful to someone else."

For other students, blogging is a way to stay in touch with friends and family back home.

"I chose to blog because I feel like I live such a hilarious, crazy and super fun life and if I don't write it down I will forget it all," said Annisha Lewis, a sophomore advertising major. "Also, since I go to school so far away from home, it's a nice way for my friends from back home to see what I'm into."

Blogging has impacted the global community as well, allowing for the transmission of ideas and the fusion of cultures.



Aleesa Mann - Life & Style Editor

Sophomore film production major Bree Gant takes the time in between classes to enter new posts into her blog.

Perhaps most importantly, it is an exercise in the right to freedom of speech.

"I think the right to publish and express your thoughts is even more important in political climates where they've not historically had those rights," Mullenwag said. Yet he also admits, "We have seen some drop-offs [in membership] from certain coun-

tries when we've been blocked for standing up for free speech issues. At various times we've been blocked in China, Brazil, Turkey and Indonesia."

For Mullenwag, blogging has leveled the playing field of the media industry and expanded the principle of freedom of the press.

"Our founding fathers

made and distributed pamphlets under the cloak of night to express their thoughts," Mullenwag said. "Now anybody with internet access can set up a Wordpress blog and use the exact same software and platform as the *New York Times* or *Wall Street Journal* and reach a million times the number of people than Franklin or Jefferson could have imagined."