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Established
1924

THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO. 19

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Thursday's Notebook

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY
GET YOUR MONEY RIGHT BY FOLLOWING FIVE KEY STEPS TO FINANCIAL SUCCESS AND WEALTH.

LIFE & STYLE
THE AMETHYST INITIATIVE IS CALLING FOR THE LEGAL DRINKING AGE TO BE DECREASED TO 18. FIND OUT MORE INSIDE.

METRO
DIABETES IS REPORTED TO BE THE NATION'S FIFTH DEADLIEST DISEASE. SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO TO DECREASE THE RISK.

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Annual Constitution Day Discusses Obama

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON
Staff Writer

With the upcoming presidential election, the panel discussion in Founder's Library in celebration of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day has served as a relevant way to give tribute to the writers of the Constitution, the document that still has impact on the American society.

Howard has been celebrating Constitution Week since 2005 with previous topics such as "Privacy and Free Speech in an Age of Terror" in 2006 and "Threats to Due Process and Equal Protection" in 2007.

At a forum held Wednesday, the topic of this year's panel discussion was "The Choice, Your Vote and The Supreme Court."

The panel consisted of Jack White, a former columnist for *Time* magazine and winner of the National Association of Black Journalists' Lifetime Achievement award, Professor Lisa A. Croom, a professor at Howard University Law School and moderator Jannette Dates, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Communications.



Presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and voter registration were the topics of discussion at the fourth annual Constitution Day event.

Panelists discussed the significance of the presidential election and the next elected president's influence in how the Supreme Court justice will be

chosen.

"Howard University embraces the idea of a living Constitution," Crooms said. "If we were to have a Supreme Court that

embraced originalism, then we wouldn't have affirmative action as an issue on the table."

Panelists looked to the university as an example of a way to

diversify the political arena.

"Howard University Law School is where the strategy was hatched for *Brown v. Board of Education* which led to the Voting

Rights Act in 1965," White said. "That led to an enormous surge in blacks running for offices in the U.S. which, in part, led to the conception of Barack Obama as the first African-American Democratic presidential nominee."

In response to the dispute regarding legitimacy and the continuation of the Voting Right Act of 1965, Crooms said, "We need to insure that people are treated equally and that they get the rights they need."

She continued, "It's your responsibility and if you don't think it matters, you, your children and your children's children will have to live off of the effects of you not exercising your right to vote."

However, freshman political science major Corryn Freeman noted that many voters consider a candidate's likability when exercising their constitutional voting rights.

Freeman said, "Quoting Dr. Lorenzo Morris, the majority of Americans would prefer to elect a candidate that they can sit and have a beer with than a candidate who is more knowledgeable about political issues."

Endustry Power Players, WKYS Push Students to Vote



Radio personality Russ Parr (left) and actor Clifton Powell (right) were on campus Wednesday for a movie premiere and to encourage voting.

The Endustry Power Players (EPP), a campus entertainment industry organization, radio station 93.9 WKYS and radio personality Russ Parr hosted the premiere of Parr's new film, "Something Like a Business," in Cramton Auditorium on Wednesday.

The event doubled as a voter registration drive, encouraging students to participate in the upcoming presidential elections.

"WKYS has always wanted to encourage Howard students...and they [also] want to target colleges within the area encouraging voter registration," said junior architecture major and president of EPP, Marcus Johns. "This was just a great tactic using the movie to encourage voter registration."

The premier was free admission and open to all students. Donations were accepted for *The Journal of Negro Education*, a Howard University publication.

After the movie screening, audience members were able to participate in a question-and-answer session with the film's stars.

-Aleesa Mann, Life & Style Editor

First African American to Win Heisman Trophy Subject of New Big Screen Movie

BY BLAIR KERKHOFF
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

Jim Brown, Floyd Little and other Syracuse gridiron heroes made their way back to campus to celebrate the premiere of "The Express," the movie depicting the too-short life of the Orangemen's gifted running back Ernie Davis.

With Davis' Kansas City area connections, a slice of the Heartland was there in spirit.

Davis' story is truly amazing. He became the first African-American to win the Heisman Trophy and helped Syracuse capture a national championship.

But his life ended tragically. Davis died of leukemia in 1963 and never joined Brown on the field for the NFL's Cleveland Browns in what could have been a history-altering backfield.

The movie, which opens nationally on Oct. 10, uses football to tell a story of a proud individual whose profile grew along with the civil-rights movement. Syracuse's trips to West Virginia and the Cotton Bowl in Dallas provide the racially charged backdrop.

Davis was named MVP of the Cotton Bowl but wasn't allowed to remain for the entire dinner banquet. The team left in protest. This is after the Orangemen were denied lodging in downtown Dallas because the hotel refused to accommodate black players.

As the movie trailer says, "In a time of change, one man had the courage to achieve the extraordinary."

To those who knew him best, Davis was ideally suited to confront challenges on and off the field.

"People remember him as a super athlete, which he was," said John Brown, Davis' teammate at Syracuse and his roommate in Cleveland. "I remem-

ber him as a gentle person who touched many lives."

Including that of Helen Gott, a Syracuse student who became Davis' girlfriend. Today, she's Helen Gray, The Kansas City Star's religion editor.

They met during her sophomore year Davis was a year ahead in school and his football prowess wasn't the attraction.

"He made an impression because he was different than what I thought of as a typical jock," Gray said. "I thought of them as being arrogant and self-absorbed. Ernie was pretty self-effacing. He was a gentleman."

But when he put on the pads, Davis stood with the best running backs in the nation. The movie, as movies do, plays fast with facts, but the premise is dead on. Davis was a powerfully built, 6-foot-2, 210-pound back with breakaway speed.

It was during his sophomore year that the Orangemen went 11-0 and won the national championship. Then, rankings were final before the bowl games, but the Orangemen confirmed their status with their Cotton Bowl triumph over Texas.

Syracuse opened that 1959 season with a home victory over Kansas, and the Jayhawks in their light blue uniforms play a role in the movie.

Davis rushed 10 times for 30 yards in a 35-21 victory that day. Kansas' total would be the most surrendered by the Orangemen that season.

The teams met again in 1960 in one of the marquee games of Kansas football history. The Jayhawks were rated fifth, their highest ranking in the history of the polls to date. Syracuse was second. The game on Oct. 1 was nationally televised by ABC, adding to the big-game feel.

One of Kansas' best teams took the field that day. Quarterback John Hadl and running



Rodney Turner (MCT)

The movie, "The Express," tells the story of Ernie Davis, the first black Heisman trophy winner. It will open in theatres on Oct. 10.

back Curtis McClinton led the Jayhawks, but the day belonged to Davis, who rushed for 123 yards and led Syracuse to a 14-7 triumph.

In his Heisman season, Davis rushed for 823 yards and 15 touchdowns. He led the team in receptions and threw a touchdown pass, and on the evening that he accepted the award, President Kennedy, who was visiting New York that day, asked to meet Davis.

Cleveland Browns coach Paul Brown was so enamored with Davis that he quietly engineered a trade, sending star wide receiver Bobby Mitchell to Washington, which had made Davis the top pick in the draft.

Ernie Davis, the top running back in the college game, would be teamed with Jim Brown, by now dominating the NFL, in the Browns' backfield. Paul Brown's idea was to match the powerful Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor backfield that had led the Green Bay Packers to the 1961 and 1962 NFL championships.

But Davis never suited up for Cleveland. He was diagnosed with the blood disease in the summer of 1962 while practicing for the annual exhibition game

between the college all-stars and NFL champions.

John Brown, now also with Cleveland, was renting a house with Davis and often found his roommate holding a towel to his face to stop the bleeding from his nose and gums as the disease grew worse.

That didn't stop Davis from believing one day he'd suit up for Cleveland. In 1962, he often went to practice and played on the team's offseason basketball squad.

But Davis grew weaker by spring of 1963.

"I came back to the house one day, saw a bloody towel on the bathroom floor and thought Ernie had gone back to the hospital for a transfusion," John Brown said. "I didn't think I would ever see him again."

That was in mid-May. Davis died on May 18.

More than four decades later, John Brown remembers those final few weeks with Davis and thinks how the movie got it right.

"People thought he spent those final few months preparing to die," said John Brown, who named his youngest son Ernie. "He was teaching people how to live."

Business Pageant Brings Talent, Royalty to Blackburn



Ashleigh Manning - Contributing Photographer

Last evening, the Howard University School of Business held its annual Mr. and Miss School of Business Pageant for the year's Homecoming festivities. It was an evening full of talented student showcases. The pageant turned out an impressive nine contestants for the crowns.

The pageant, held in the Blackburn Ballroom at 7 p.m., began with the contestants' introductions, followed by the talent and question-and-answer portion where contestants revealed their platforms. The final segment was Evening Wear, where contestants donned their best formal tuxedos and evening gowns.

In the end, William Worley's parody on T.I.'s "Whatever You Like" won over the judges, earning him the coveted title of Mr. School of Business, followed by Andrew Schell and Terrence Taylor as first and second runners up, respectively. Meanwhile, songbird Bianca Little took the Miss School of Business tiara, followed by first and second runners up Lauryn Scott and CeKeshia Akins.

- Compiled by Marquis H. Barnett, Contributing Writer



Tyrone Clemmons - Staff Photographer

Reportedly, 7.5 percent of the graduates in undergraduate programs have enrolled in the university's graduate and professional degree schools.

Students Weigh Their Options for Higher Education

BY IZUNNA ENYINNAH
Contributing Writer

As Howard offers many graduate and professional degree schools, ranging in fields from law to dentistry, many students considering further education look to the university as an option. However, some students have sights set outside of Howard's realm.

Sophomore economics major Pierre C. Whatley plans on applying to the University of Georgia's graduate economics program after his expected 2011 graduation.

"I'm applying to the school in my state because the program is ranked higher than Howard's and also the school is closer to my home," Whatley said.

He explained that he would consider Howard and option for graduate school only if it ranks higher than his top choice school before he graduates.

According to Phds.org, Howard University is ranked 115 as the best Graduate School for Economics, while the University of Georgia is ranked 95.

According to Carol McKinnon, Howard University Registrar and Director of Records, the university encourages graduates from its undergraduate programs to consider continuing their studies at Howard graduate schools.

McKinnon reports that in the past nine years, the university has graduated 11,547 students from its undergraduate programs - an average of 1,283 students each year.

McKinnon further explained that among the 11,547 students who graduated during those nine years, 7.5 percent enrolled in the University's graduate and professional degree programs.

Reportedly, during the nine year period, the Graduate School enrolled the highest number of Howard graduates with 265 in the College of Pharmacy, followed by Nursing and Allied Health Sciences with 133 and the College of Medicine with 113.

The School of Education enrolled 94 students while the School of Law enrolled 66 and the School of Business, 57.

"I don't know if Howard is motivating students to come to the program, but I do know Howard encourages them to apply," said Dr. Clifford Ferguson, a professor in College of Medicine.

Ferguson said that the College of Medicine gets plenty of students from Howard's undergraduate program.

He also mentioned the benefits of undergrad, saying that the college offers a baccalaureate degree program where students in undergraduate may do two to three years in undergraduate and is then allowed to attend the College of Medicine earlier. After they finish the program, they are awarded a baccalaureate degree.

Some students are staying at the Mecca, like Marcus Ware, a senior political science major, who plans to attend the School of Law.

Ware explained that the School of Law's tuition is cheaper than any of his top law school choices, and he believes he can gain the same knowledge at Howard at a cheaper price.

Ware said the reason why some students do not apply to Howard's professional degree programs is because they need a diversified education background.

Mercedes Woodson, a junior pre-medical biology major, said, "The HBCU experience is enough for undergrad, but not for graduate."

Kira Badcombe, a junior psychology major, said she seeks a graduate school that may provide a different experience than her undergraduate years at Howard.

"As an undergraduate student at Howard University, you go through certain problems and it's very important that graduate students don't go through those same problems," Badcombe said.

Knights Fraternity Offers Student Scholarship

BY ANGELA P. SMITH
Staff Writer

The Knights Fraternity, Inc. (KFI) is strongly encouraging all Howard University students to apply for their Melting Pot Scholarship. The deadline for the scholarship is Monday, Sept. 22.

"We noticed that many of our friends, classmates and colleagues are challenged by tuition and book costs," said KFI Vice President Uzomba Nwagba.

He added, "We simply want to help alleviate these expenses from the first semester of the school year."

All Howard students are eligible for the scholarship, regardless of major, classification or GPA.

To qualify for the \$500 award, students must simply answer seven trivia questions that will test their knowledge on Africa, the Black Diaspora and Howard's pivotal role in shaping these communities.

For applicants who would like to gain a competitive edge, there is also a bonus question available.

But there is a catch - students must approach a Knight on campus to receive the question.



File Photo

The Knights Fraternity's annual scholarship is open to all Howard students, regardless of major, classification or GPA. Applicants are expected to complete a series of seven trivia questions.

Applicants are asked to e-mail their answers to knightsfraternity@gmail.com.

The scholarship recipient will be selected based on a drawing of all correct answers and will be notified Sept. 26.

Founded on the principles of business and philanthropy, KFI is an international fratern-

nity devoted to humanitarian efforts both in the United States and Africa.

"We usually focus on aiding those on the continent of Africa, but we also realized that the true challenge begins at home, here at Howard," Nwagba said.

Named for the diverse and distinct backgrounds of Af-

ricans, Caribbean and blacks, the Melting Pot Scholarship is offered bi-annually to Howard University students.

KFI also provides a similar award to seniors at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School in Washington.

The Knights Fraternity Incorporated requires applicants answer the following questions to be eligible for a \$500 scholarship:

1. Ouagadougou is the capital of what African country?
2. Which country in sub-Saharan Africa is the most populous?
3. In what year did Trinidad and Tobago gain her independence?
4. Who was the first African American to win a Nobel Peace Prize?
5. What language is spoken by the greatest number of Africans?
6. Who was the last president of an African country to pay an official visit to Howard?
7. Name any three members of the Knights Fraternity Incorporated.
8. [Bonus. Please ask any Knight on campus for this question]

-Compiled by Angela P. Smith

DON'T MISS THE BUDGET MEETING ON SUNDAY!

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6 P.M.**



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Life According to an Upperclassman

Descartes said:

**"I think, therefore I am...
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Seriously, he said that.

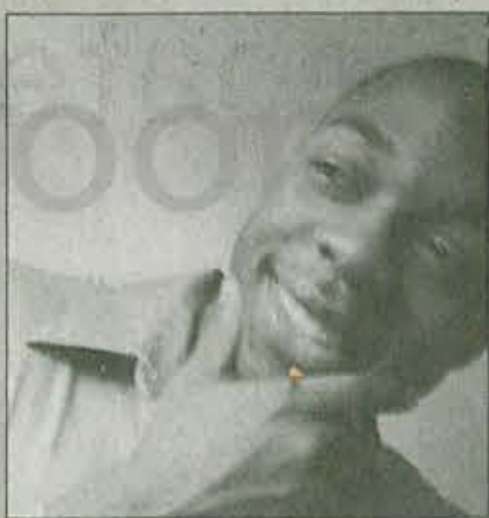
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The Biz

Five Suggestions to Keep Your Money In Order...Even If You're Busy

BY CHARLES TAYLOR
Contributing Columnist

You're busy, I know. With all that's going on, it's easy to see how something as boring as personal finance can fall by the wayside. There are tons of tools, calculators and Web sites you can use to learn more about money and improve your overall financial health. But who has the time to find the best ones?

I'm going to help you out with a few simple solutions that you can easily fit into your busy life. Start using these resources and you'll be a financial guru in no time.

1. **Checking and Savings Accounts** (www.schwab.com) – Everybody needs at least one checking and one savings account. And every bank in the world offers both options. So, why are Schwab accounts the best? 1. The Schwab High-Yield Investor checking account comes with FREE ATM WITHDRAWALS WORLDWIDE. Just think of all the money you can save with that alone. 2. Both the savings and the checking accounts have some of the highest interest rates in the country. 3. The accounts have no minimum balance requirements (Although it does take \$1,000 initially to start the account). 4. No monthly service charges. Schwab pretty much has the best checking and savings accounts, hands-down.

2. **Retirement Planning** (www.aarp.org) – This is probably a no-brainer, right? Naturally, the Association for Retired Persons would know a lot about retirement. AARP.org has a host of retirement calculators and articles about retirement, and even a few hours spent on the site can yield thousands of dollars in the long-run.

3. **The Market** (www.wsj.com, www.barons.com) – Anyone who is serious about learning the financial market really needs to read one of these two publications at least every two days. The *Wall Street Journal* is typically regarded as the most important publication (in general) for business students to read, and Barrons (owned by the *Wall Street Journal*) offers even more specific information. If you seriously want to learn, start with these two.

4. **Personal Finance** (www.thesimpledollar.com, www.young-money.com) – The Simple Dollar is a personal finance blog, and it's the best I've read. It's updated daily and is jam-packed with tips, tricks and techniques that anyone can use. The Simple Dollar covers everything from bankruptcy to saving money on groceries. Youngmoney.com is also an excellent resource for students looking to improve their financial health, and usually has a special emphasis on college students.

5. **Entrepreneurship** (www.entrepreneur.com) – *Entrepreneur* magazine is an excellent resource for anyone looking to become an entrepreneur or take their business to the next level. If you want to become successful and be the best, you have to read like the best. Entrepreneur.com and *Entrepreneur* magazine are both established compendiums of knowledge.

6. **Scholarships** (www.fastweb.com, www.scholarships.com) – I think every college student has used one or both of these sites at one time or another. While both sites are roughly equal in my opinion, it's important to use more than one source when searching for scholarships. If you're serious about finding scholarship money, checking both Web sites frequently will be worth the extra time spent.

Charles Taylor is the owner of Origo Genius Company, which provides free lecture notes and helps students buy and sell used textbooks. He can be reached via the company's Web site, www.origo.com.

U.S. USES 'BIG STICK' To SAVE ECONOMY

Fed Assists AIG With Millions But Warns of No More Bailouts

BY WILLIAM NEIKIRK
Chicago Tribune (MCT)

Theodore Roosevelt once described his "big stick" foreign policy as "the exercise of intelligent forethought and of decisive action sufficiently far in advance of any likely crisis."

The United States federal government — the Federal Reserve Board in particular — shows to many that they are not fervent followers of the former president.

In its plan to take 80 percent control of the faltering insurer American International Group with an \$85 billion loan, the Federal Reserve showed how far it is willing to go to prevent a full-blown financial meltdown.

Roosevelt also said the U.S. had the right to interfere in other nations' economic sovereignty when necessary. Now, it looks like the historically sovereign U.S. is having trouble maintaining its past economic fervor. Wednesday, the Treasury Department was asked to lend the Federal Reserve \$40 million to make up for all of the Fed's monetary intervention with several failed big businesses.

Their latest rescue of AIG also showed a new boldness by Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke, a former economics professor with a calm demeanor, to move swiftly and dramatically to deal with a crisis that he had been accused of — soft-pedaling last spring.

"I feel like the government is just being careless right now," said Zusi Airhiavbere, a Howard University graduate who majored in economics. "The government is more in debt than most of the companies that they are trying to bail out."

While government intervention in the economy is nothing new in America, taking such a huge stake in a large, international company has few precedents.

The Federal Reserve, along with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, came to the conclusion that AIG was too big to fail, chiefly because the firm had insured billions of dollars of the poor housing debt held by many financial institutions.

The decision to take control of New York-based AIG is a huge departure from the conservative principles of the Bush administration and many Republicans in Washington. There has been a growing political aversion to such bailouts in both parties, beginning with the rescue and sale of Bear Stearns, an investment bank, earlier this year.

But Lyle Gramley, a former Fed

governor, cited one possible reason for going this far. He said credit had been much tighter since March, and that many banks had obtained insurance from AIG against some of their bad housing loans.

A bankruptcy by the insurance firm would curtail credit even more sharply, he said, "and the noose around the economy's neck would continue to tighten. It would be very damaging to the real economy."

The financial crisis is a big test of leadership for Bernanke and Paulson, a former Wall Street executive, who helped engineer the bailouts of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mac, government-sponsored mortgage giants, and federal assistance to now-defunct Bear Stearns earlier in the year.

Both were accused of being asleep at the switch when the housing bubble threatened the entire economy, forcing the hasty rescue and sale of Bear Stearns. Now, said several analysts, both appear to be on top of the situation.

Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirow Financial, praised Bernanke's previous academic research on the Great Depression and financial market stability.

"That is reassuring," she said.

But Michael Drury, economist at McVean Trading and Investments, LLC in Memphis, cited one problem: "In this nebulous gray area, AIG has substantial foreign components. Is the United States going to have to save the entire world?"

In a crisis, noted Drury, those involved in transactions like this one are impatient with those who raise questions.

"You just want somebody to do something. They don't care if it's not the absolute right thing to do," he said.

The potential problem with the Fed and the White House taking bold ac-

prefer troubled financial giants work out their own problems; it declined to lower interest rates. It did so even though many in the financial market had expected a reduction because there was so much turmoil over bailouts and bankruptcies.

But the Fed concluded that it was worried not only about the economy but also about inflation. This came as a surprise to some Wall Street analysts, who pointed out that inflation is likely on a downturn with a drop in oil and other commodity prices.

Still, the decision on AIG reinforced the notion that the government will take drastic action to head off a crisis.

Experts said there's more work to be done. The Fed must continue to provide financial liquidity to the economy so that loans don't dry up and the economy can continue to grow.

"I'm sure it's more important that the big companies are saved for the company," Airhiavbere said.

Meanwhile, the financial crisis has given rise to calls for a new government agency that would buy troubled housing debt and seek to sell it back to the markets at a discounted price.

This would be an entity similar to the Resolution Trust Corp., which Congress created in the late 1980s to unwind the savings and loan debacle. The idea is to enable the government to dispose of much of the bad private debt, but obviously at a loss, which means that taxpayers would make up the difference.

- Additional reporting by Christina Burton, Business & Technology Editor

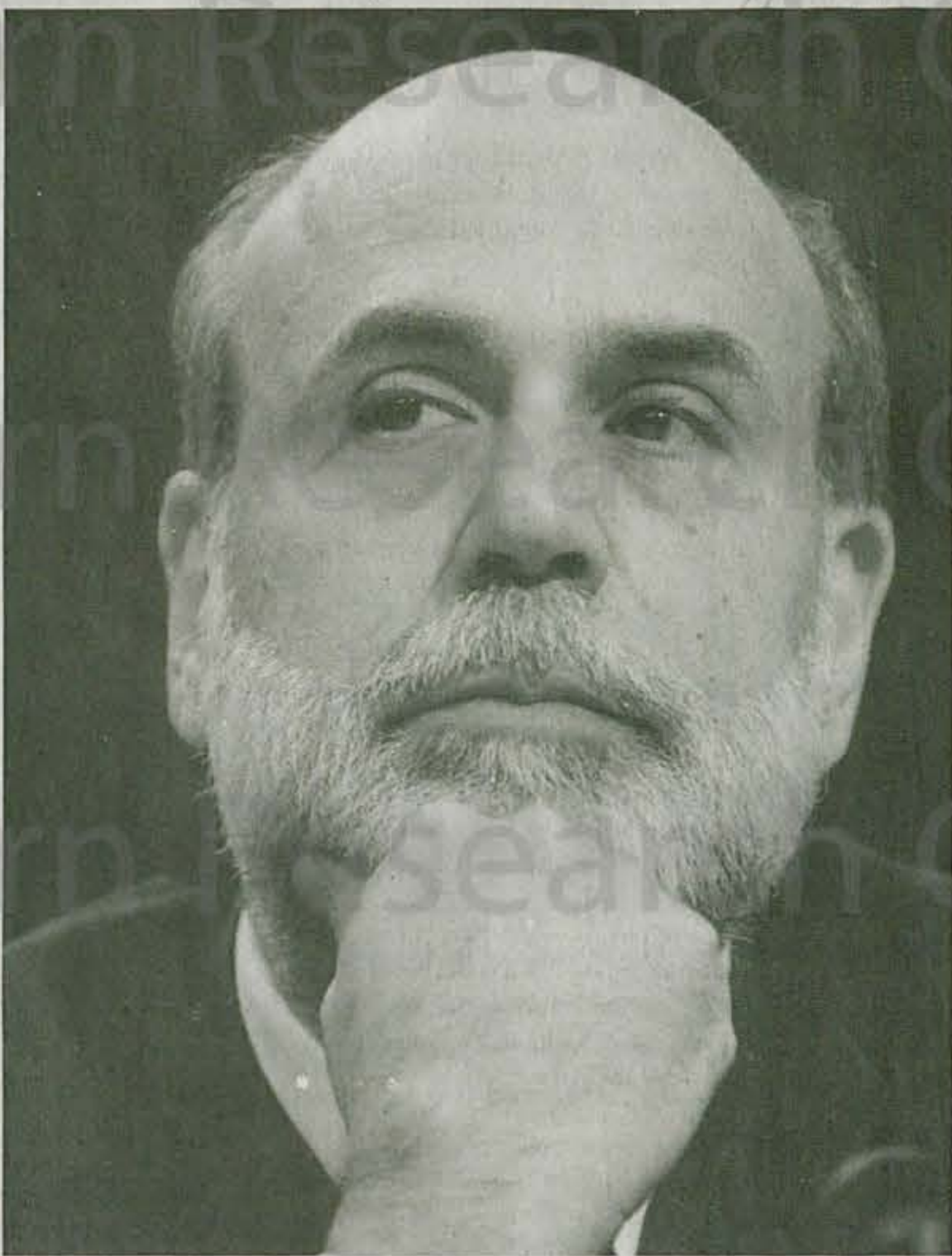


Photo Courtesy of Chuck Kennedy - MCT

Chairman Ben Bernanke (above) of the Fed said abandoning AIG could have added to the already weak economy, raising lending rates and lowering wealth for U.S. citizens.

GENTRIFICATION BODES WELL FOR COLUMBIA HEIGHTS HAIR SALON

BY MIRANDA SMYRE
Contributing Writer

Mozel Beene and her daughter Monika Beene have seen many changes in the 20 years of owning and operating Mozel Fashion Beauty Salon in the booming business section of Columbia Heights in D.C.

When gentrification threatened the community around her as new businesses, shops and the DC USA projects began replacing longtime ethnic establishments, she wondered what effect it would have on her business. Surprisingly, she says business has been better than ever.

DC USA is the \$140 million, 546,000-square-foot new entertainment and shopping complex developed by New York development company Grid Properties and partnered with Gotham Organization, Inc. The site features retail shops, including Target, Marshalls, Best Buy and Staples.

Mozel Fashion Beauty Salon, a black-owned salon located at 3310 14th St. NW, has reaped the benefits of its new clientele and business base. A small shop a few doors up from Target and Marshalls, Mozel Fashion is a full salon and beauty supply in one, offering an array of supplies, beauty prod-

ucts and clothing.

Beene and her daughter Monika have noticed the variety of clients frequenting the salon and an overall booming business.

"Ever since the mall [DC USA] has opened up, it's been better for the business," Beene said. She says gentrification has definitely diversified the area and changed the overall look, but it has not hurt the business. "We have a bigger and better variety of people and cultures coming in: whites, blacks, Hispanics and Ethiopians. Men even come in."

The 1968 riots destroyed many businesses along the 14th Street corridor; some are even burned beyond salvage. According to Monika, Mozel Fashion was the first black business that stayed open after the riots. When many other establishments were closing their doors, Mozel Fashion remained open. The salon was located in the Clifton Terrace neighborhood when Mozel decided to move to 14th Street, and has been there for the past 20 years.

The new DC USA projects are still underway on 14th Street, along with new condominiums, retail shops and restaurants, which have all contributed to the diversity and excitement of this historic neighborhood.

Fantasy Flowers and Gifts by Gale, another black-owned business, has also been experiencing the positive effects of gentrification. Store manager and relative of owner Gale Oliver, a singer, Lynn Oliver says gentrification has helped improve her family business, which has been open for 20 years.

"It's a booming area; everything is new, everything is diverse," Oliver said. "Not just one ethnic group buys flowers."

Oliver moved from Brooklyn, NY, and has lived in D.C. for 10 years with her family. She says she has noticed that the area's high crime has lessened.

"I don't see as much violence; more people are shopping in the area since they built it up," Oliver said. "There is greater police control, which has helped calm the violence in this area."

Businesses have been thriving since gentrification hit this neighborhood, which used to have a reputation for its high crime and violence.

Some residents believe Columbia Heights has turned around for the better of the community. They notice changes in the increased police security to helping residents achieve better living conditions.

Greg H., sales consultant in Virginia and former D.C. resident, says a major change is police patrol. He says before the construction developments, the police were rarely in sight, "but now [they] are on every corner," he said.

Greg H. also said he believes the government has enough money to keep residents from losing their homes because it overloads on parking tickets in the District. "The police rack up enough money in tickets everyday," he said.

Some residents even see gentrification as a catalyst for a better social environment, allowing them to take advantage of the new opportunities around them, with more jobs and growing business clientele.

Marcus Reeves, a Columbia Heights resident, said gentrification doesn't have to be completely frowned upon, but that it could possibly help those who live in impoverished neighborhoods.

"They are pushing you to make a better environment for yourself, because there are other places to live than just the 'hood," Reeves said. It's a self-problem that people can't make a better life for themselves, so this process may help them out."

Have a business or technology-related story idea for this section?

Send them to HilltopBT@gmail.com, or come to Budget Meetings in the Hilltop Editorial Office held every Sunday at 6 p.m.

The Dirt



BY LENZY BETTERS
Contributing Columnist

You might have heard last month that the super-successful pop starlet **Rihanna** was going broke. The information hit the blogosphere after her former business manager, Patricia Williams, was quoted as saying, "It's not my fault that she only has \$20,000 to her name." In a recent interview, Rihanna sets the story straight and says she's entirely too business-minded to be broke. "You can't get away from the business side; it takes over. The minute you get into the business side, it becomes you. I get business reports all the time because it's my money. And I stay on top by living it, breathing it, thinking about it every day and every night." After five successful singles from her latest album "Good Girl Gone Bad," I did find it a bit hard to believe that she was held-up for cash. Oh, and with legs insured for \$1M, I think she's going to be O.K..

I'm sure by now you've all at least seen a clip from the "Saturday Night Live" season premiere. It's almost creepy how much **Tina Fey** actually looks like **Sarah Palin**. The episode, which was hosted by Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps, garnered the highest ratings for SNL since 2001. It seems pretty simple to me. Make it funny and people will actually watch it. Hmm...

Alicia Keys continues to deny that she has anything to do with the split of producer **Swizz Beatz** and his estranged wife Mashonda, but there are new reports that the Grammy winner could be named as 'the other woman' in divorce papers.

In maybe the most- and least-shocking news of the week, MSNBC is reporting that Academy Award-winning actress **Jennifer Hudson** is officially engaged to reality TV "star" **David Otunga** aka **Punk** from "I Love New York 2". Otunga gave his love an unexpected gift when he reportedly proposed on Jennifer's birthday with a Neil Lane diamond ring. The couple have been dating less than a year.

Barack Obama's camp is refusing to comment on the ridiculously racist "Obama Waffles" that were being sold at a conservative political forum in Washington on Saturday. The box featured a cartoonish Obama, his bulging eyes and big lips staring intently at a plate of waffles. The back of the box featured a recipe for "Open Border Fiesta Waffles" that says it can serve "four or more illegal aliens." The recipe includes a tip: "While waiting for these zesty treats to invade your home, why not learn a foreign language?" Wow.

Betters provides daily content at Lenzyism.com

Drinking Age Comes Under Debate

BY JENERRA ALBERT
Staff Writer

The Amethyst Initiative, a project introduced in July, is a movement that calls for the reexamination of the 21-year-old drinking age.

The National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984 established a law that all states must maintain a minimum age of 21 as the legal drinking age or else they would lose up to 10% of their highway and state funding.

Almost 25 years later, in response to the act, college and university presidents have collectively supported the Amethyst Initiative.

More than 125 college and university presidents, including those from Morehouse, Duke and Ohio State, have agreed that the minimum drinking age in America should be lowered.

The presidents of Spelman, the University of Maryland and Texas A&M are also among the list of university presidents who have signed the Amethyst Initiative.

Those who have developed the movement and those who support it have been careful to express their affiliation, not to encourage young-adult drinking, but to simply spark debate over the issue.

"Because I have a long history of supporting open dialogue and discussion [on] tough issues, I support the Amethyst Initiative's focus on opening the dialogue regarding responsible alcohol use by young adults — not lowering the legal drinking age," said Spelman President Beverly Daniel Tatum in regards to her support of the bill.

"Spelman College has a reputation as a 'dry' campus because we maintain high standards regarding alcohol use. All students — regardless of age — are prohibited from possessing, consuming and/or distributing alcohol on campus. We take pride in our emphasis on academic excellence and responsible social behavior," she continued.

Many students feel the current drinking age has not done anything to deter underage college students from drinking.

"Underage drinking is something that will never go away. Students will choose to drink whether or not the law has been changed. It's something that we just can't get around. It happens when you come to college, and whether [they lower] the age or not... drinking is going to happen," said Nadja Ruffin, a sophomore human development major.

The Amethyst Initiative is not only



Alexthea I Carter - Staff Photographer

The Amethyst Initiative, a project introduced in July, aims to lower the legal drinking age. Several college and university presidents have supported the movement, but others think lowering the age will encourage drinking. Howard University does not currently support the initiative.

designed to help students; those who support the project think that students need a respect for the law.

The initiative claims, "Adults under 21 are deemed capable of voting, signing contracts, serving on juries and enlisting in the military, but are told they are not mature enough to have a beer. By choosing to use fake IDs, students make ethical compromises that erode respect for the law."

The signatories of the Amethyst Initiative say that their "experience as college and university presidents convinces us

that twenty-one is not working"

Brandon Strong, a junior business management major, totally disagrees with the initiative.

"By trying to protect the law, they're only lowering the age to break the law," Strong says. "Things like smoking and drinking already start at a lower age than what is legal anyway, so if the age is lowered, it will only create a younger group of minorities who break the law."

Howard University is a dry campus and does not currently support the Am-

ethyst Initiative. For many students like Valdes Steed, this is a good thing.

"I would not be okay with Howard's president participating in the movement," Steed says. "It totally sends the wrong message and would result in a domino effect. It would start with underage drinking and turn into lack of success in schools. People already don't expect black people to succeed, and sending the message that we drink at a younger age does not add to our success as [students]."

STREET SMARTS 101 Date Rape

BY JESSICA MORRIS
Contributing Writer

One out of every six women have been a victim of a rape or will be a victim of attempted rape in their lifetime, according to the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network.

Date rape is the most common method of rape and is happening to women all around the country. It is also very prevalent on college campuses. It is important that women know how to identify date rape, prevent it and handle it if it happens to you or anyone you know.

The Centers for Disease Control report that date rape is the rape of a woman by a man with whom she is acquainted. The rapist is usually the woman's "date." It can be drug-induced with drugs such as Rohypnol, Ketamine, GHB or alcohol. It can also occur without drugs. The majority of date-rape attackers are someone the victim knows.

"[Date rapes] are very common. [They happen] a lot, mostly when students go off campus ... to clubs," said Sgt. Travis Hammond with the Howard University police.

Hammond suggests women protect their drinks to prevent the likelihood of date rape. "Avoid alcohol if you can. Be aware of things at all times. Don't get tunnel vision," Hammond said.

According to the National Crime Prevention Agency, another prevention tip is to drive your own car or take public transportation if you are going to meet a date. The organization advises you to trust your gut feeling, and if a date makes you feel uneasy or nervous leave.

Many Howard students are very aware that this is a real problem that you must protect yourself from. "I think that date rape has occurred very commonly. ...As a woman, you must always be aware of [it] when going out or dating," said Tolani Ishola, a senior biology major.

"When I go out, I make sure not to leave my drink around and I never let any of my friends leave with someone we don't know," said Kristal Morris, senior legal communications major.

Despite taking precautions, date rape can still occur. Some of the symptoms of date-rape drugs are drowsiness, dizziness, black outs, sweating, loss of memory, confusion, hallucinations, numbness and loss of coordination.

Date-rape drugs can be extremely dangerous and can cause comas, seizures and death, which is why it is important to see a doctor immediately if you feel you may have ingested one of these drugs.

It is important that all women know the realities of date rape and take appropriate steps to prevent it from happening to you.

If you are a victim of a date rape, remember that you must report the rapist to prevent it from happening to anyone else. It is crucial to call the police and you may also want to contact a rape crisis center. Go to a medical center as soon as possible — and do not shower. Also try not to urinate and try to collect any containers from which you may have drunk.

If You Feel You Have Been a Victim of Date Rape...

1. Try not to urinate and collect any drinking containers you may have used.
2. Go straight to an emergency center. They can gather DNA and other evidence to help you make a case against your assailant.
3. File a report, or take action against the assailant; it may prevent others from becoming victims.
4. Call a friend or family member who can offer you support through the situation.
5. Remember date rape is non-consensual and you are not to blame.



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Camille McDonald
from ANTM cycle 2

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Photo Courtesy of media.canada.com
Oprah Winfrey opened the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa in January 2007. However, her talk show has become less and less focused on issues that affect women of color. Both her audience and her guests are becoming predominantly white.

Oprah Winfrey Should Influence Media to Highlight Black Problems

For the second year in a row, Oprah Winfrey topped Forbes' "Celebrity 100" list. Ranking at No. 1, Winfrey remains the most influential celebrity in the world. Throughout her career, Winfrey has been deemed the greatest black philanthropist of our time and was the only black billionaire for three consecutive years.

Her dedication to children's rights, political advancement and global humanitarianism makes Oprah one of the most powerful women of all time. Since 1998, Oprah's Angel Network has donated over \$50 million to charitable funds and grants across the world, establishing schools in over 13 countries.

Today, millions of women subscribe to "O" magazine and enjoy Oprah's Book Club, and if any one group of people loves Oprah, it is definitely the Howard University community. In 2007, Ms. Winfrey addressed the graduating class during the Commencement exercises and was awarded a Doctor of Humanities degree from the university.

Anyone home by 4 p.m. is probably watching the "Oprah Winfrey Show" and looking forward to the free gifts she gives her

audience. Produced by Winfrey's own production company, Harpo Productions, the show focuses on women's health and wellness prevention, cuisine, fashion, personal finance, emotional health

Our View:
Ms. Winfrey is a media mogul and she should use her influence to highlight current problems in the black community.

and current events. While all of these topics are issues that affect all women, it is fair to say that the show sometimes lacks discussion on issues that are currently afflicting the black community.

Recently, a show featured John Ramsey, the father of Jon-Benet Ramsey, Elizabeth Smart and Shawn Hornbeck. Smart and Hornbeck both were abducted but were later found alive. The show was called "Stories That Captured the Nation." Coincidentally, each of these guests where whites.

The circumstances that they underwent were extremely unfortunate and will never be forgotten. However, there are thou-

sands of missing black children and pregnant women who go missing each year. Yet, the media refuses to give them the Lacey Peterson or Natalee Holloway type coverage that they deserve.

If someone were to mention the names of Tamika Hutson, LaToya Figueroa, Romona Moore, April Gregory, Shelton Sanders or Stepha Henderson, nobody would know who they were. But in fact, they are all black women who were all missing and later found murdered. Figueroa was five months pregnant at the time of her death.

The media barely covered any of their stories, but the minute a white woman or child goes missing, books are written and movies are made. This is an alarming disparity in media coverage and media moguls like Ms. Winfrey have the capability of unveiling this discrimination.

Pregnant black women and children are being abducted, tortured and left to die at alarming rates. It is up to the media to uncover their stories. We respect and admire Ms. Winfrey for her commitment to mankind; but, this is happening here at home and she has the ability and influence to bring attention to it.

Keeping Up With the Huxtables

Alumna Brandi Womack

Since Barack Obama decided to run for president of the United States of America, people have constantly pointed out reverse racism and discrimination. They often criticize blacks for only voting for Obama because of the color of his skin and not for what he stands for. They accuse Obama of pulling the race card as a ticket to the White House.

I am convinced that if Obama gets into office there will be a million other race issues brought up that will claim in many ways that blacks are somehow being racist or discriminating against others. People have even started bringing up questions concerning the need for our beloved Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

While back, there was an article written about Michelle Obama titled, "A Short History of Racism: The Michelle Obama Story." The statement read, "Predominately white universities, like Princeton, are socially and academically designed to cater to the needs of the white students comprising the bulk of their enrollments." This statement was written in a thesis she had written while a student at Princeton University.

A reader of the article left a comment under the article and it read, "But it's okay for predominantly black universities like Grambling to cater to the needs of black students comprising the

bulk of their enrollments. I've never heard anyone speak out about the need to diversify the 95% black student bodies at the southern black colleges."

That reader does not stand alone on their views. There has been a lot of talk about if there is a need to still have Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and if we should have to diversify our student populations, as we request that predominantly white schools to do the same.

The Pro-black side of me wants to say: There was a time when African-Americans were not allowed to attend predominantly white schools, and thus the need for HBCU's became a must if African-Americans were going to be able to get any type of higher education. Other schools tailored their educational system towards the development of white students and taught lessons that excluded the history of blacks.

HBCU's had to develop a curriculum that would prepare blacks with the skills they needed to survive in America. We then went further to develop our own Greek organizations, clubs, political movements, promote unity within the race, fight for equality along with Martin Luther King Jr. and force our way into corporate America.

Many people argue that there is no way we could properly prepare for the real world without going to a school with

other races because the real world is not all black. However, back then we didn't have the option to go to school with them, but still produced great actors, politicians, lawyers and doctors that are some of the greatest legends and pioneers in African American history.

I would say that the constant focus on building up blacks at these schools is necessary because it is hard to find it anywhere else. No I would not exclude other races from being able to attend HBCU's; but I would not change the necessary curriculum and environment that has become a great tool for blacks to succeed.

But in the year 2008, with the fight for change being at the forefront of our minds and with a society that is trying to move away from discrimination and racism, is there a need for HBCU's to diversify their schools? Should they to create a curriculum that is tailored toward other races? Or should we stay the true HBCU's that we are?

Let me know what you think by e-mailing the Socialite at bwomack@imkeepingup.com and share your response with others.

Keep Up!

- The Socialite

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

Do you want to write for
The Hilltop?

Come to our next budget meeting!

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CORRECTION: In the Sept. 16, 2008 story, "Rhee Executes Major Public School Overhaul," a statement read, "As part of a major school overhaul program spearheaded by Mayor Adrian Fenty and D.C. School Chancellor Rhee, underperforming area public schools were shut down." The statement should have said that 23 schools were closed because of underenrollment, not underperformance.

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.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of the The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

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

CVS, Howard Hospital Host Diabetes Testing, Prevention

BY MELISSA MONTGOMERY
Contributing Writer

Ten years ago, Patricia Cooper's life drastically changed when she was diagnosed with diabetes. Simple daily activities such as eating and walking had to be altered due to the life-threatening disease.

Like Cooper, one out of ten Americans is affected by diabetes, making it the nation's fifth deadliest disease.

This summer, a citywide initiative to educate Washingtonians about diabetes went forth with representatives from CVS/Pharmacy, Bayer Health Care and the Howard University Diabetes Treatment Center teaming up with the Department of Health and City Council members from wards 4-8.

To end the campaign, the Diabetes Treatment Center Mobile Unit tested and treated residents free of cost on Wednesday at a CVS on Bladensburg Road, in Northeast. There, representatives celebrated the success of the campaign.

"We did this as a summer project. We screened over five hundred people. We picked up six new cases of diabetes," said Dr. Gail Nunlee Bland, director of the Diabetes Treatment Center at the Howard University Hospital.

Led by the Treatment Center, the four month campaign encouraged residents to get tested and to get the proper treatment for this disease.

"We thought it was a great collaboration between the [Howard University] hospital and our regional pharmacy," said Gordon Howard, vice president of CVS Pharmacy.

District residents, like George Miles, lined up to get tested and get proper medical treatment.

Miles, who has never been tested, has a father and sister diagnosed with the disease.



CVS Vice President Gordon Howard, with HUH representatives and members from the Department of Health, hosted the last stop on a four month campaign to increase diabetes awareness.

"If we don't take care of ourselves, no one else will," Miles said.

Cooper urged people already living with diabetes to get the proper medical treatment.

"My mother died from it. I'm glad that I caught on earlier. If you have diabetes you should pay attention to your doctor and do the right thing," Cooper said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in four Americans who have diabetes is unaware of it. Diabetes is twice as likely to have heart attacks and strokes than others. Howard is very pleased with the outcome of the campaign.

"It's been a long process, but it's been a great process," Howard said. "The hardest

[thing] is to get people to understand that you should take the test."

Dr. Bland felt that many residents are fearful.

"The fear is probably paralyzing them from going in to get treatment," she said.

For the citizens who were diagnosed with diabetes, Dr. Bland encouraged them to get the proper treatment.

"It's very important because we can improve the lives of people with diabetes. We can improve the outcome to avoid complications such as blindness and dialysis," she said.

"Going out, reaching out to the community, making them feel comfortable is what we are trying to do," Dr. Bland said.



Melissa Montgomery - Contributing Writer

Energy Assistant Plan Extends its Application Deadline to September

BY MELISSA MONTGOMERY
Contributing Writer

Seventy-nine year old Nancy Smith is living on a fixed income. The majority of the money that Smith receives from Social Security goes to pay her bills. For Smith, her energy bill is the most expensive.

Elder citizens and low income families in the District can qualify for the Low Income Home Energy Assistant Program (LIHEAP), administered by the District Department of the Environment (DDOE).

According to Alan Heymann, the Director of Public Information for the DDOE, 96 percent of the LIHEAP applicants were approved last year.

"In fiscal year 2008 (October 1, 2007 - September 30, 2008), we had 30,560 approved and 1,192 denied out of a total of 31,752 applicants," Heymann said.

The amount approved recipients are awarded is based on household size, total household income, type of dwelling and heating source. "We assisted 8,097 households with at least one child ages 0 to 5," Heymann said.

Some residents excited about this program, believe that it will be a success. Sandra McDonald is one resident who remains optimistic. "Virginia doesn't have it, Maryland doesn't have it, it's about time that D.C. is doing something to help people," McDonald said.

On Tuesday, September 30, the annual Joint Utility Discount Day will be held. This is a day where families in need of assistance can get a discount on their utility bills. Residents in-

terested can go to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center to apply. This event is one way to inform and assist the residents who are in need.

"Getting the message out is important; there are so many people who qualify; but they don't know about it," said Cynthia Long, a district resident.

In previous years, D.C. residents could usually sign up for the grants until June, when all of the money would be dispersed.

The Office of the Deputy

Mayor gave \$1.3 million to the LIHEAP for Planning and Economic Development. This has greatly helped the LIHEAP stay open until the end of September. The LIHEAP provides anywhere between \$250 and \$1000 to low income residents whose electricity has been disconnected. Residents can only receive the grant one time however.

For more information, visit the DDOE Web site at www.ddoe.dc.gov or call the Energy Office Hotline at (202) 673-6750.



Photo Courtesy of www.marketwatch.com

The District energy assistance program will get an additional \$1.3 million.

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