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WEATHER

 **76**
59
Tomorrow:
 **77**
62

Established
1924

THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO. 22

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Tuesday's Notebook**CAMPUS**

GENTRIFICATION MAY BE CAUSED BY 'STRATEGICAL' URBAN PLANNING. FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN FIGHT AGAINST IT.

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

AFTER THREE YEARS, THE XBOX 360 IS FINALLY RECEIVING A MUCH EXPECTED PRICE CUT FROM \$299.99 TO \$199.99.

METRO

FIND OUT HOW ONE OF THE BIGGEST CELEBRATIONS OF BLACK-ON-BLACK LOVE CAME TO THE DISTRICT.

PAGE 2

PAGE 4

PAGE 5



Harry E. Walker (MCT)

Bush will address multinational diplomacy needs among other issues in his UN speech.

Bush Bids Farewell to The United Nations

BY OMARI EVANS
Staff Writer

In four months, Bush is going to leave office.

But, in the meantime, he has some speeches to make. Today, Bush is going to speak at the UN in New York one final time. Controversial Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will also be in attendance.

On Sunday, Ahmadinejad said that his nation's military would "break the hand" of any aggressor that targets his country's nuclear facilities, according

to the *Associated Press*. Iran is continuing its nuclear work in defiance of the American and international demands.

Bush plans to stress the need for multinational diplomacy and to present the case that the United States is a team player.

Bush will talk about the ways the U.S. and international organizations can more effectively confront problems together.

Lorenzo Mores, Ph.D., chairman of the Political Science department, ex-

> See **BUSH**, page 3

Union Contests Potential Town Center Contractor

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

The Services Employees International Union (SEIU) is organizing against the hiring of well-known Archstone, a contractor and developer, at Howard University.

Archstone contracts and develops apartments in California, Florida, Washington and the District of Columbia. But recently, it has become infamous for undercutting worker wages.

The *Wall Street Journal* cited Archstone as a partial reason for Lehman Brothers' loss of \$2.8 billion during the 2008 second quarter.

In addition, there have been several protests in New York City and New Haven, Conn., against the corporation to protect workers' wages. The protests have been organized by SEIU branch Local 32BJ.

SEIU is a union of property service workers and this particular branch (32BJ) represents workers from D.C. to Connecticut.

Additionally, Local 32BJ represents about 300 maintenance and custodial workers at Howard. It recently took notice that Archstone is on the short list for possible contractors for the Howard University Town Center.

"One of our main concerns is that, given the company's practices of

undercutting workers' wages in New York, [they may] try to do the same thing here at Howard if they're given this contract to develop the town center," said Jaime Contreras, Area Director for SEIU Local 32BJ.

The Howard University Town Center will be on a 2.2 acre plot of land at 2112-2146 Georgia Ave., N.W. It will be a mixed-use facility that will include rental units, a grocery store and a parking garage.

Howard developed the initiative with aid from the Fannie Mae Foundation and the D.C. government.

"At a time when workers are struggling to buy gas, food and pay for mortgages, we believe that educational institutions should hire responsible contractors," Contreras said.

He continued, "Close to one out of three [D.C.] residents lives in poverty and struggles to get by on low income. We believe that worker's wages should be considered for these types of projects."

Contreras added, "It concerns us greatly because we can't allow a contractor to come in and pay workers a lot less than members make. We have to protect workers wages."

SEIU recently secured Howard workers a 16.5-percent increase in wages under a three-year contract effective until Nov. 10, 2010.

"We would hope that they would seriously consider our concerns," Contreras said. "Our hope would be that they hire responsible contractors to do this project."

He continued, "At this point, I have not received a response from the university, so I don't know what they're thinking of doing."

In response to the union's concerns, Diane Branch, Associate Vice President of the Office of Real Estate Development and Asset Management, said, "Archstone is one of several developers we are considering as potential developers for the Howard Town Center."

Branch continued, "All prospective developers will be reviewed for the extent to which they have met the programmatic, legal and business requirements set forth in the Request for Proposals."

She added, "Until a selection is made, we will not be responding to any issues that do not directly address the criteria set forth in the university's selection procedure."

The criteria included in the selection procedure do not include protection of workers' rights.

On Sept. 12, SEIU, Local 32BJ sent a letter to the university that stated, "In light of your ongoing review of

> See **HUTC**, page 3

D.C. Celebrates Car Free Day



Jacqueline Hunt - Staff Photographer

Bikes sit in front of the Russell Senate Office, D.C., encouraging residents to ditch their cars for Car Free Day, Sept. 22.

BY JASON CLARK
Contributing Writer

On Monday, Sept. 22, the District of Columbia asked all residents to nix their cars for the day.

The District's Car Free Day is a subset of World Carfree Day, an international event celebrated every Sept. 22 in which people are encouraged to get around without their cars.

It is intended to show and pro-

mote the economic, social and environmental benefits of public transportation.

Car Free Day was established in 2000 as a grassroots movement by the World Carfree Network. Today it involves participants in over 1,000 cities in 40 countries.

Monday, thousands were expected to participate in the movement. According to carfreemetrodc.com, last year, 1,000 people pledged to not use their cars for the day and took advantage of public transportation.

This year, nearly five times as many residents pledged to walk, bike or take the bus to work.

Sara Stout, the North-American representative for World Carfree Day, believes people should to participate every year just to consider something different.

"People have been using cars for a long time and have just gotten used to it," Stout said. "It's about finding alternatives for today's world, and if that's not enough, just look at fuel prices."

With crude oil prices breaking records and remaining over \$100 per barrel for most of 2008, people are re-evaluating their relationships with their cars.

According to metroopensdoors.com, Metro broke its all-time ridership record in July with over 21 million riders using the system.

This is the kind of record D.C. Council member Tommy Wells wants to set as the city attempts to "go green."

"We want to encourage people to walk our city and think about trying other forms of transportation," Wells said.

Although this is only the second year of Car Free Day in the District, it is the first year the whole region is having a joint effort to make an impact and promote "going green."

With a host of different activities and festivals going on in the city during the day, there are some in the community who feel that the city isn't taking this Going Green initiative seriously. Darryl Moment, a resident of Ward 2, feels like there is more the city could be doing.

"I just don't see them putting 100 percent into this if it is something they are really trying to do," Moment said. "But it's like anything else — you have to give it time in order for things to get worked out and really put into action."

The District is listening to its residents. To further promote the use of other means of transportation, there are several tours on foot or bike throughout the city. Muriel Bower, a council member for Ward 4, will be showcasing one of the newer trails that just opened up in her ward as part of her promotion of Car Free Day.



Alexandra I. Carter - Staff Photographer

Franchise Boyz Make a Cameo

Dem Franchise Boyz visited WHBC on Monday to promote their new album, "Our World, Our Way," which will be released at the end of the month.

"Our new album is slated to come out Sept. 31, so we're just doing a little promo," said Gerald "Buddy" Tiller. "Besides, we've been here before; we love HU."

The group, known for hits like "White Tee" and "Lean Wit' It, Rock Wit' It," promises a new sound and a new image on the forthcoming album.

"You'll see a lot of growth. You'll see a lot of growth, a lot of maturity," said Bernard "Jizzal Man" Leverette. "You'll see Dem Franchise Boyz be Dem Franchise Men, and... you'll see some of our artists from our own record label presented on this album."

-Compiled by Alicia Mann, Life & Style Editor

Myspace Music Seeks to Amplify Listening Experience

BY LINSEY ISAACS
Staff Writer

News Corp.'s social networking site, MySpace, has partnered with the three top music labels to form MySpace Music, which is intended to boost music sales and compete better against Apple's dominant iTunes.

The new merger will result

in a joint venture between MySpace, Sony BMG Entertainment, Universal Music Group and Warner Music Group.

The smallest of the four leading record labels, EMI, is in talks with MySpace according to an EMI spokeswoman.

MySpace Music is slated to debut later this month. The financial provisions of the merger

were not released, though the record companies will provide their content for free and present members with access to a comprehensive library of music.

Users will be able to create online playlists and share music through their pages. To transfer music for personal listening, listeners will have to purchase songs through Amazon.com, the second

largest digital music outlet. The merger will perhaps allow Amazon to compete with iTunes.

With the ability to stream audio and video content, MySpace Music will bridge the gap between artists and fans — something other music sites don't do.

"I think it's a good idea for MySpace users," said sophomore chemistry major Peter Claver.

"Whenever I want to hear a new song [on MySpace], it's always a demo. So if they're trying to revamp it and get an in-depth music collection, that's great. If you upgrade a site, it's always a good look."

MySpace now has over 120 million users around the globe, dominating the social networking world primarily with its

music.

"Millions of die hard music fans and artists already call MySpace Music home," Chris DeWolfe, CEO and Co-Founder of MySpace, stated in a press release.

"By partnering with these industry leaders, our vision for

> See **MYSPACE**, page 3



Many students believe the university is not doing enough to accommodate student parking. Others voice concerns with the quality and lack of security in lots such as Banneker North and South.

Parking Lot Conditions, Security Leaves Some Students Discontent

BY ANGELA P. SMITH
Staff Writer

With limited parking spaces, unkempt parking lots and minimal security, many Howard students find campus parking frustrating and problematic.

"It's really a hassle," said Andrea Giscombe, a sophomore print journalism major. "Parking at Howard is scarce and very hard to get."

A Bethune Annex resident, Giscombe was hoping she would be able to park in her dormitory's underground parking lot for the year.

But she was quickly informed that only Bethune Annex resident assistants and employees are permitted to park in the lot.

"There are plenty of parking spaces available underground," Giscombe said. "All of the RAs and workers don't fill up the lot. Parking at the Towers is out of the question because it is only offered to residents."

Giscombe added, "Getting a Zone 1 permit only allows you to park for a few hours, so that's not much of an option for me either."

Managers over the Bethune Annex parking lot were unavailable for comment with *The Hilltop* at press time.

Giscombe is currently on a waiting list for a student parking permit. For now, as a precaution, she is parking her car on the streets of Washington.

"I just park wherever I can," Giscombe said. "I'm always concerned with something happening to my car, or getting a ticket. But what else can I do if I don't have a student parking permit?"

Student parking permits at the university are determined through a parking registration system held each spring and fall semester.

The student parking fee is \$240 for a 12-month period. To control the university-limited parking spaces, freshmen are not eligible for parking privileges.

Sophomore public relations major Simona Noce also does not have a student parking permit. But, unlike Giscombe, she does not want one.

"Paying \$240 for the year wasn't worth it,

in my opinion," Noce said. "I live off campus, so I'm not really around that much, anyway. Then, there's also the issue of purchasing a permit and still not having a place to park."

Noce continued, "The parking spaces around campus are almost always full. It would be upsetting to have difficulty finding a parking space everyday after paying all that money."

Alarmed by students' discontent with campus parking, Rebekah Clark, a sophomore health management major, has reconsidered bringing her car to school next year.

"At first, I was gung-ho about bringing my car to Howard [my] junior year," Clark said. "But as I see all of my friends with cars having problems, I'm not so sure."

Along with the parking registration system, Clark's concerns with University parking include the poor conditions of lots and the lack of security.

"Banneker North and South look run-down," Clark said. "It isn't paved, [there are] no outlined parking spaces and there's broken glass in the lots. The glass could damage my tires. And what if I'm wearing flip flops?"

Clark, continuing to point to the lack of security, said, "I want to feel good about leaving my car in the lots. I should have no worries about car theft, vandalism and safety after paying \$240."

According to Clifford Smith, director of Parking and Shuttle Operations, the Banneker North and South parking lots receive regular maintenance.

"Physical Facilities Management (PFM) cleans the parking lots at least once a week," Smith said. "Broken glass should not be found in the lots."

Smith said outlining parking spaces and paving the Banneker North and South parking lots would cost "millions."

"Just Banneker South alone would cost us \$5 million, which is a lot," Smith said. "Howard could definitely use that money [toward] another project."

Smith added that while Parking and Shuttle Operations control the parking lots, Campus Police is responsible for security.

'Strategic' Urban Planning Affects Black Community

BY TYEESHA ERVIN
Contributing Writer

Just 60 years ago, the neighborhood surrounding Georgetown University was inhabited by African Americans. But due to gentrification, one would never know.

The National Archives lists a program known as The Alley Dwelling Authority (1934 to 1943). The people in these areas lived in alley shacks near the stadium and waterfront before the housing authority was abolished. Now, the area is populated by whites.

How was this allowed to happen?

According to Dominic T. Moulden, executive director of OneDC (an organization that educates people about the effects of gentrification and the tools to fight it), it happens strategically.

He revealed the concept known as urban planning at an event held Monday night entitled, "Learn What You Can Do to Fight Gentrification," sponsored by the Howard University Student Association (HUSA).

According to Ojirese Momoh, a junior sports medicine major, the event was held because gentrification is an issue that is occurring throughout the District.

"I [lived] in Slowe Hall last year, and they were doing construction in the neighborhood...

near there," Momoh said.

Momoh continued, "I was wondering how long it was going to take. By a semester's end, the construction was finished and the blacks were gone."

Junior political science major Morgan Thomas said, "Our goal for HUSA is to get students more actively involved with our community beyond the community service."

He continued, "Gentrification has had such a monumental impact because it is happening to people [who] look like us."

Moulden defines gentrification as "the strategic removal of the indigenous people living in a specific area over a period of time."

Moulden said, "The first thing they do is take away the jobs, stripping your income. When work disappears, what appears to be left for most people is a drug economy."

He continued, "Once that happens, white people invest in the neighborhoods. After that happens, the schools decline. Thirty years later, you don't have the education needed to rebuild your own neighborhood."

He added, "You have to understand that it is not an accident. If every one out of three of your people is locked up, do you think that's an accident?"

Moulden pointed to statistics, saying, "Right now there are 166 houses up for sale in D.C....

Ten thousand families [have been displaced.]"

In addition, he said that to live in D.C., one person has to make \$60,000. The average income of black people is \$35,000 in the District.

In some cases, the D.C. government defines affordable housing as fit for a household income up to \$100,000, which is not affordable for the majority of people living in the area.

He goes on to say that the problem is not only a race issue, but also a class issue as well.

"Until we stop using drugs and fight this system, it will keep happening over and over again," Moulden said.

The issue is not unique to D.C. It is happening in many urban areas such as Atlanta, Detroit and Baltimore. The issue has become so pertinent that it has begun to affect African-American culture.

In Lupe Fiasco's album "The Cool," he has a track warning against gentrification that says, "They thought it was cool to tear down the projects and put up million dollar condos. Gentrification."

"They think it's cool to stand on the block hiding product in their socks making quick dime-bag dollars.... Freeze, because the problem is that we think it's cool, too. Check your ingredients before you overdose on the cool."



Jessica Lewis - Staff Writer

Dominic T. Moulden addressed students at the HUSA event, "Learn What You Can Do to Fight Gentrification" on Monday night. Moulden is the executive director of OneDC, an organization targeted towards the fight against gentrification.

'Super Heroes' Come to College Of Arts & Sciences Pageant



Travis White - Staff Photographer

In the COAS pageant, the 15 competitors - nine ladies and six gentlemen - faced off in the night's theme of "Super Heroes." At the end of the night's festivities, Jerome Joseph and Kindell Isadore were crowned Mr. and Miss College of Arts & Sciences.

Isadore, a biology major, wowed the judges with her voice and poise under the platform, "Recreating the Achievement Gap," while Jerome Joseph, also a biology major, impressed the judges with his confidence and his platform, "GQ: The Evolution of a Man," as well as his saxophone skills.

-Compiled by Travis White, Staff Photographer

Mr., Miss School of Education Win Big at 'Casino Night'



Travis White - Staff Photographer

Kheaton Scott and Shawdae Thorpe, both junior human development majors, earned the title of Mr. and Miss School of Education at Saturday's pageant, themed "Casino Night." Scott won after performing a monologue of his experiences this summer working with children. His platform is titled "Community" because "everything you do is for a greater good," he said.

Thorpe won after performing a spoken word and song about empowering youth to achieve their dreams. Her platform is "W.I.S.D.O.M.," which stands for "Working in Society, Determining Our Moves."

-Compiled by Vanessa Rector, Editor-in-Chief

Bush Wraps Up His Last Four Months

continued from front, BUSH

pects Bush to "reiterate his commitment to fighting terrorism, with a continued emphasis on the War in Afghanistan — but with a continued legitimization of the War in Iraq."

He added, "I expect him to call for greater international unity around the questionable intentions of U.S. intervention."

"I expect him to legitimate his past efforts and not to apologize for any of the mistakes, including the things about Weapons of Mass Destruction."

HUSA Director of Policy and Planning Austin Thompson

said, "A lot of people around the world are going to be looking to see how President Bush is going to be characterizing his own legacy."

Thompson stated that he would like to see Bush also discuss the Bush Doctrine, a bill that may play a major factor in defining his legacy.

The Bush Doctrine gives the right for the United States to dispose foreign regimes that represented a potential or perceived threat to the security of the United States.

Ironically, during vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin's first national interview, she could not explain what the Bush Doctrine was.

Mores explained that in 1953, Ralph Bunche, a legendary political scientist and the first black to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, argued while at Howard University that anyone who argues for preventive war cannot be trusted.

"It's funny how that warning over 50 years ago should have been heeded today and was not heeded," Lorenzo said.

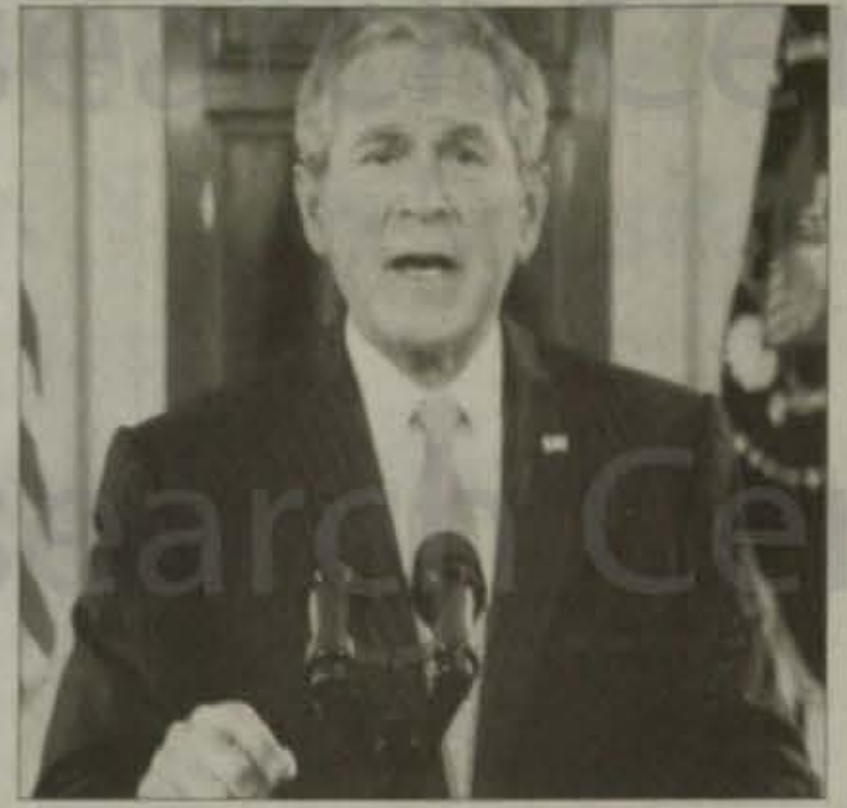
Although Mores watched the speech unenthusiastically, he believed that Howard students should only watch it because "[the students] should be concerned about the fading and difficult role of the U.S. with foreign policy. We should

be concerned that [Bush] leaves an impression of building alliances."

Bush's speech today will be important because, as Mores said, "Given the financial crisis, the U.S. is still, even in its wavering economic relationships, capable of leading the world both militarily and financially."

He concluded, "Any national leader within the major powers speaking now is an important reinforcement for international unity."

If Bush fails to unify the international community tomorrow, the job will be left to either McCain or Obama in November.



Chuck Kennedy (MCT)

Bush plans to strengthen U.S. foreign policy before leaving office.

HUTC Contractor Questioned

continued from front, HUTC

Archstone's proposal to develop the Howard Town Center, we wanted to bring to your attention to some concerning news about Archstone and one of its parent companies, Lehman Brothers."

The statement reads, "Two days ago, Lehman Brothers' share price declined 45 percent, bringing the shares down over 91 percent from their peak last year."

"In a shareholder's call yesterday, Lehman Brothers reported that it is planning to

shed assets, including transferring Archstone assets to a newly-formed, publically traded company called Real Estate Investment Global in early 2009."

Another letter written on Sept. 3 states, "As representatives of 100,000 property service workers, including hundreds of cleaners and trade workers at Howard University, we are concerned about the business practices of Archstone, one developer in consideration for the development of Howard Town Center."

"Given the company's practice of undercutting workers' wages in New York City, we

are concerned Archstone may try to undermine wage standards at the University."

The statement referred to the Town Center as a necessary means for "battling Washington's chronic poverty rate."

According to Contreras, "There has been activity on the street all over in the 32BJ jurisdiction. We may or may not do one here depending on the route the university takes."

At the time of press, Archstone was unresponsive to e-mails from *The Hilltop*.



CLEAN
MONEY
CLEAN
ELECTIONS

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 38th Annual Legislative Conference 2008 will be held at the Washington Convention Center from Wednesday, September 24th to Saturday, September 27th.

Please join us on Thursday, September 25th at 4:00 for a free seminar on money in politics and its impact on African American candidates.

Find us in Room 144-A

What: "Empowering Voters, Supercharging Small Donors"

When: Thursday, September 25th, 4:00 p.m. to 5:50 p.m.

Who:

- The Honorable Speaker Karen Bass (D-47), California State Assembly
- The Honorable Wanda G. Bryant, Judge, North Carolina Court of Appeals
- Gary Holder-Winfield, Candidate, Connecticut State Assembly District 94
- Dolores Huerta, President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation and co-founder of the United Farm Workers Union
- Hilary O. Shelton, Executive Director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP

Moderator: William McNary, President, USAction, Co-Director, Citizen Action/Illinois

Where: Room 144-A, Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW

This seminar is sponsored by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA), Public Campaign, National Black Caucus of State Legislators, and the Fair Elections Now Coalition.

www.publiccampaign.org

MySpace Hunts for Its Piece of the Digital Market

continued from front, MYSPACE

MySpace Music as the definitive platform for unlimited artistic expression and unrestricted user experience is finally being realized."

With more than 5 million artist pages, MySpace has already become a catalyst for propelling new music forward, including that of independent labels and unsigned artists. But in the past, it has failed to submit monetary support for the dying record industry; and, prior to the merger, engaged in legal conflicts with labels.

MySpace Music will be supported by ad revenue, with McDonald's, State Farm, Toyota and Sony Pictures among the first to sponsor the site.

CD sales have declined 10 to 20 percent annually since the introduction of digital music and overwhelming numbers of downloads.

Apple's extensive digital catalog has garnered an approximate 85 percent of the market share for music downloads, according to estimates this year by Gene Munster, senior research analyst at Piper Jaffrey.

Although Amazon is runner up to Apple, it would only count for 5 percent of the market in sales, Munster said.

"Competition's always good; it makes companies strive to be the best," sophomore mar-



David Loewen III - Dallas Morning News (KRT)

MySpace Music, which will launch this month, plans to change the digital music industry.

keting major Vance Lewis said, "I'm not sure if it'll bring enough money, though. It won't be significant enough to help the record industry or take away from iTunes' market share. People are still going to download music [illegally]."



HOWARD UNIVERSITY 2008 SPECIAL ELECTIONS



College of Arts and Sciences

Junior Class Vice-President
Naima Blake

Junior Class Secretary
Chasim Cooper

Junior Class Representative
Leah Caldwell

Sophomore Class President
Martell Bivings
Michelle Mabson

Sophomore Class Vice-President
Terja Gibson

Sophomore Class Secretary
Rhonda Burke
Amani Kamey

Freshmen Class President
Brandon Harris
Julian Lewis
Khadijah Norman
Yeji Ohtsuta

Freshmen Class Vice-President
Travis Hunt
Ericka Laws
Blair Matthews
Jon-Michael Washington

Freshmen Class Secretary
Philip Armstrong
Kenia Delaney

Freshmen Class Treasurer

Joshua Collins
Teresa Ghidry

Freshmen Class Representatives (2)

Jamilia Greene
Darrick Scott
Justin Thomas

School of Business

Senior Class Vice-President
Krystal Oriacha

Junior Class Treasurer
Kanesha Hunt

Freshmen Class President
Sepprena Brown
Brendan Francis
DeAndre Howard
Darien Jones
John Miller
Ashley Mudie
Nena Ugwuomo

Freshmen Class Vice-President
Justin Lamotte
Kenneth Little
Jaime Oliva
James Pounder
Steven Walker

*Write-In Candidates

Freshmen Class Secretary

Shelby Allen
Darren Matthews
Ashley White

Freshmen Class Treasurer
Kenneth Barnett
Chad Dillon*

Graduate School of Business

Executive Vice-President Finance
Emmanuel Andrew -JaJa

Constitution Relations Chair
JoAnne Key

Corporate Relations Chair
Mutaba Mukendi

First Year Representative
Alimoe Laryea
Senah Phyllis

School of Divinity

Executive Vice-President
Joseph Smith

Chaplain
Yolanda Ellison
Andrea Noel

GSA Representative
Ciana Gregory

XBox 360 Lowers Price: Students Say Drop Was Warranted, Too Late

BY JASON CLARK
Staff Writer

Microsoft dropped the price on their all-in-one gaming console Xbox 360.

As of Sept. 5, the system became available for \$199.

"We are thrilled to be the first next-generation console on the market to reach \$199, a price that invites everyone to enjoy Xbox 360," said Don Mattrick, senior vice president of the Interactive Entertainment Business at Microsoft.

Xbox.com states that the 360 has sold 19 million units worldwide since its release on Nov. 22, 2005. Junior film major Jeremy Burkett believes this price reduction was inevitable.

"As something gets older it depreciates in value," Burkett said. "[Microsoft] had to appeal to the hardcore gamers first and then branch out to people who couldn't handle the original price."

Mattrick agreed in the company's press release, saying, "The majority of consumers make the decision to buy consoles once the price falls to this mark, making this an important milestone for consumers and the industry."

Some are looking at the domestic aspects of this move and others are thinking about it globally.

"I think this is more influenced by other regions than our own," said David Comeau, a computer security and forensics major attending Northampton County Community College. "For instance, Japan is a country that is very loyal to their own. Nintendo and Sony are kicking Microsoft off the market in sales."



Judith Calson - San Jose Mercury News (MCT)
The Microsoft Xbox 360 price decreased from \$299.99 to \$199 earlier this month. The popular game made its debut in November 2005, facing competitors like Sony and Nintendo.

While it may not be first in sales, the Xbox 360 is first with online content.

Only Xbox 360 owners have access to Xbox Live. The service connects 12 million members in 26 countries around the world. If one is looking for access to movies, television shows or even old arcade games, they can be found with 360.

Mattrick believes the Xbox 360 can be the entertainment center of a living room. A recent deal was struck between Xbox 360 and Netflix marking this fall as the first time a game console is able to offer instant streaming of more than 12,000 feature films and television shows from the provider.

Although he only purchased his system a couple months ago, Burkett does not feel like he should have waited for this price reduction or that he got ripped off.

"If it would have happened a month after I bought it, I would have been mad," Burkett said. "But I use my system for a lot of things so I definitely get my use and value out of it."

Comeau said he likes the decreased price as well.

"With all the new options and the lowering of the price, it means more fun can be had on a budget," he said.

Erik Mohn, a senior telecommunications management major, said that although he isn't the biggest gamer, he would be more "inclined" to buy the Xbox now that it's the cheapest console on the market.

Mohn said he currently does not have the need for the console "because I have a laptop and a DVD player."



Google's Dream Less Than Reality

BY LINSEY ISAACS
Staff Writer

The iPhone and BlackBerry phones have disrupted our already tumultuous lives in a good way, of course. I don't go anywhere without my gold BlackBerry Curve and I am anxiously awaiting the release of the BlackBerry Bold.

I'm not going to lie though—at one point, I hopped on the T-Mobile Sidekick bandwagon (or at least tried to). I'm in love with their network, and it suited me and my wallet just fine. But the No. 4 network carrier is letting age get to the product they were perhaps the most well-known for, and their sales and new subscriber numbers are slowly declining. So what's going to save the company that's competing against a Cingular and Apple force as well as stronger networks that similarly carry the BlackBerry phone? The answer is Google's Android HTC Dream—or so they hope.

It's been known to the public since earlier this year that Google would release a smart phone, thriving off the propaganda surrounding iPhone's upgrade and following other manufacturers who created smarter and cheaper counterparts. T-Mobile finally announced that they would be the first to carry the phone, which will hopefully give them the same publicity and financial boost that the iPhone provided for AT&T.

Google is off to a great start; however, mobility analysts suggest waiting for at least the second or third generation phones before succumbing to the hype. And I agree.

The innovative phone would pair a Linux mobile operating system with a rumored free G-mail service. And, being that it is provided by Google, the device would allow an endless pool of applications. In related news, T-Mobile extended their 3G network. Add that to the phone's potential web-functionality and you have a strong competitor in the smart phone market—allegedly, of course. I'm waiting on results.

Call me cynical, but as great as Google is at monopolizing the Web and advertisement industry, I can only see them as just that: the advertising sector. And though Google has wonderful phone applications, putting them all together and creating a smart phone is a tough job—and a huge risk. I can't imagine them selling the same number of phones in the same time frame that the iPhone did, nor can I picture consumers lined outside all day. Even Samsung sold out on the Instinct in some stores temporarily on their release, but they specialize in that technology and are known for their near-flawless phones. Purchasing a Google phone, on the other hand, is a gamble.

If anything, the phone, which is slated to hit shelves in mid-October for approximately \$199, will appeal to the consumer market that would focus on their low price and improved data service. Other than those two factors, I don't see how the Google phone would be better than what is already on the market. The first-generation phone would probably have a few kinks to work out, so I'll wait for professional reviews, sales and an entire generation before considering to purchase the Google phone.

Maybe it's poor advertising or a loyal faith to the BlackBerry, but I'm not quite ready to jump on that bandwagon yet.

Editor's Scribbling on Recent Economic Matters

Worried about your

SAVINGS?

your Bank of America checking account

certificates of deposit

money in a credit union

money in a money market

Fine.

OK.

GOOD.

Eh...

Bank of America just bought Merrill Lynch, historically one of the most lucrative, powerful investment companies on the green planet. Inflation is the only thing that will bring down the value of your dollars. The trick is not to get scared that they'll go under like Washington Mutual and other banks. It's like this: If everyone got scared all at once, ran to Bank of America, and took all of their money out of their accounts, THEN every student's favorite bank would go down with the ship. Bottom line: they need our money to stay alive as a banking stronghold. Plus, all the money deposited with them is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. You're good.

They are protected by the FDIC as well. If you plan on getting insured by the FDIC, one, though, you should go through a brokerage firm for safety purposes. Or, you can try a deposit-placement service. Either way, you'll spread your money across multiple financial institutions.

But instead of the yield on your investments in this kind of mutual fund has gone down since debt securities of Lehman, Merrill and such went down to ZERO or dropped substantially. But no money is completely gone. You just won't get much in return for your participation. using a money market fund now to invest would have lower yields on certain funds, so have your eyes open.

could be bad.

Looking rather dismal actually...

The stock markets are struggling, and are touted to be in disarray for some time due to the plight of all of these failing financial institutions (i.e. Bear Stearns, American International Group, Merrill Lynch, Lehman Bros.). If you do have shares, watch them closely as you may already know; please pay attention because billions of dollars can be lost in seconds.

WHERE THE HOUSING MARKET FITS IN...

Don't run from the market. Just because everyone says "housing crisis" and "mortgage crunch" doesn't mean it isn't OK to invest in property. Right now, it's only bad for 1) institutions that got greedy and took part in subprime lending to people who could not afford to pay the high-interest mortgages, and 2) the people who defaulted on their mortgage loans. It is HIGH TIME, though, to buy all of this extremely cheap foreclosed property lying around.

Just too make sure you're money is covered, you can check on it at www.fdic.gov/edie

Fifth Annual Black L.U.V. Festival Uplifts, Unites

BY GENET LAKEW
Staff Writer

Almost 13 years after Kymone Freeman first envisioned a day of love and unity, he hustled around John Marshall Park to ensure that his dream would be exactly the same as it was all those years ago.

Sunday, 10,000 people gathered to celebrate the 11th annual National Black L.U.V. (love, unity and vision) Festival. The vision officially became a reality 11 years ago.

"I wanted to recapture the unity I witnessed and participated in at the Million Man March," said 38-year-old Freeman, who got the inspiration for the festival after attending the march in 1995. "Many times, we are reminded that we live in a world where war is reality and peace is make believe. The festival is our effort to try and look back at the past and prepare for the future."

People of various ages and ethnicities arrived with chairs and blankets in tow for an afternoon of music, poetry and speeches. The smell of Jamaican jerk chicken, curry chicken, fried fish, vegetables and rice traveled across the park, while people got down to the feel-good music of artists like James Brown and Frankie Beverly and Maze, making the festival reminiscent of an extended family reunion.

The festival has grown since its inception in 1997, from 1,500 in Malcolm X Park to 10,000 attendees on Sunday at John Marshall Park on 4th Street and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

While the festival has garnered support from the community for many years, only recently has D.C. displayed its support as well. Last year, the festival received a proclamation from Mayor Adrian Fenty declaring the third Sunday in September



The Black L.U.V. festival began 11 years ago. Over the years, it has grown by the thousands. It gives blacks the opportunity to come together and uplift each other. While attending the festival, one can enjoy tasty food and good music.

Black L.U.V. Festival Day.

Throughout its growth, event coordinator Karen Baker says that the focus on community continues to be the mission and vision for the festival. This year, the festival's coordinators devised

the concept of A.C.T. on the red, black and green; "A" stands for accountability for your health, "C" to embark change in your community and "T" to take control of the environment.

"We want to continue to charge

the community with being responsible for their community," Baker said. "We're bringing them out on this day to not only celebrate, but to educate them about things that are going on in their community so that they can start to make a differ-

ence in them."

For Aaron Johnson, who has been a sponsor and vendor of the festival since 1997, he proudly considers Black L.U.V. to be the only festival in Washington, D.C. that is built around the fundamentals of uplifting people.

"This is the only place, except for the Million Man March, where people are walking around telling each other 'I love you brother, I love you sister,'" he said. "The Black L.U.V. festival is really a good name for it because it's how people are expressing themselves in terms of our love for one another."

Courtney Dowe of Wheaton, Md. agrees. While sitting on top of her blanket and offering snacks of chips and cucumbers, Dowe said that the festival is a positive representation of black culture.

"Self-love is one of the biggest priorities of the black community because we've been taught self-hatred for centuries," said 32-year-old Dowe. "We need to engage in the process of re-humanization because we were subjected to dehumanization for so long."

The spirit of the festival grabbed the attention of sisters Kyndall and Monique Brown, who performed their original works of poetry on the festival's stage.

"It's a wonderful festival and it's one of my favorite things during the year," said 13-year-old Kyndall.

"It's very inspirational to black people and all colors and races," added 11-year-old Monique.

For Freeman, whose upper torso is decorated with tattoos of a slave ship, Argentinian revolutionary leader Ernesto "Ché" Guevara and the Moshood Warrior mask, he stands proud of the festival's purpose.

"This is our community awareness event, our communication network," Freeman said. "We must begin to talk with each other, learn from each other

Busboys & Poets Celebrates Anniversary

BY SHELLEY BRUCE
Contributing Writer

The familiar restaurant for D.C. residents on 14th and V Streets was packed all day as Busboys & Poets celebrated its three years of poetry, peace and activism.

Many Howard students like senior Ife-Chudeni Oputa can attest that Busboys & Poets is a unique location to "relax, read, celebrate and simply enjoy themselves."

Its close location to Washington's historical U Street has been a great place for Oputa to go.

"I really appreciate the great venue, nice atmosphere and events for artists," she said. Oputa also explained some of Busboys' artistic contributions to D.C., such as getting the city's poetry Slam team back on its feet by hosting its poetry night once a month. "This is an example of the way they help the D.C. art community," she explained.

But Busboys & Poets, whose name was inspired by Langston Hughes, is more than just a trendy lounge to bring a date or study on the weekend. In three short years, it has expanded to two new locations because of its captivating passion for community development and peace has caught fire in the metro area—and not to mention its delicious desserts as



Busboys & Poets, a lounge and popular hang-out spot in the D.C. metro area, celebrated its three-year anniversary on Saturday.

well.

Since 2005, the passion and dedication of Anas Shalall, combined with his business savvy and great ideas,

have flourished on the corner of 14th and V Streets. Shalall's background as an Iraqi-American artist and entrepreneur are some of the apparent reasons for the eclectic and impassioned vibe that Busboys & Poets exudes.

Artwork can be found from the wall to the menu. Comfy chairs and intimate seating adorn every corner, and messages of political protests are even seen trailing across a digital screen in the bookstore with updates of Iraq war statistics.

"It symbolizes what D.C. is all about, the whole melting pot," said junior Whennah Andrews. "It does not depend on class... It's a common place for everyone to go." Andrews recently celebrated her birthday at the restaurant in August. She also tells of Busboys' support of Howard University and the Obama campaign as they helped sponsor

an HU bus trip last December for the Democratic Primary election in Ohio.

"They have done quite a lot," Andrews said.

And the celebratory spirit of these many accomplishments was shown with the festive décor and theme of three.

Balloons dotted the various rooms, while free events and \$3 drink specials were provided for all to enjoy. Children participated in storytelling in the morning.

Even Erica Thompson, the Corporate Affairs manager, was found outside marking the sidewalk.

Thompson said it is with joy, pride and fulfillment that she has served at Busboys since its opening.

A D.C. native and Howard alumna, Thompson said she has been thankful to find her passion.

"It really was a perfect fit for me," she said.

She also explained how Busboys has aligned with her personal values.

"It has been amazing," Thompson said. "It is just beyond words... what it has meant to me personally, to see [Busboys] be part of the community and to see how it's so reflective of D.C."

Thompson continued to say, "I just feel so proud and honored to be here."

And many D.C. residents seem to reciprocate the same feelings of admiration and gratitude as well.

Metro Briefs

Minor Faces Firearms Possession Charge

In Silver Spring, Md., police found 18-year-old Edith Hernandez-Mendez with possession of a handgun. At the time, she was near the St. Bernadette's Catholic Church and School, standing across the street with a group.

She attends nearby Montgomery Blair High School.

Firearm laws in the state of Maryland dictate that a person must reach 21 years of age in order to legally possess a handgun. As a minor, she faces a charge of unlawful firearm possession. Currently, Hernandez-Mendez is being held at the Montgomery County Detention Center with a \$5,000 bond. Police authorities suspect the occurrence might have been gang-related, but that is still under investigation.

New Measure to Protect Pedestrians

The D.C. Council has approved new legislation that will impose higher fines for drivers who do not stop for pedestrians on the road. With the new bill, drivers will face a \$250 fine as well as three points on their license for such an offense. Previously, the penalty for drivers was \$50.

In the incident of a collision on a crosswalk or intersection with a walker, the driver will be charged with \$500 and six license points. The income from such fines will be used to fund programs that improve pedestrian safety.

The new measures are designed to protect pedestrians and to crack down on drivers who do not yield for walkers.

Decline in D.C. Public Schools

Dena Iverson, the spokeswoman for D.C. schools, announced an 8 percent decline in public school enrollment. The number of students is currently 45,135 in 120 District schools—a drop from the previous year's number figure of 49,422. The definite count will be conducted next month on Oct. 6. It will be based on the number of total students in attendance for school that day.

Conversely, enrollment in charter schools is projected to have risen. The official numbers for that will also be confirmed early next month. Charter school student population is expected to increase by 20 percent.

- Compile by Genet Lakew, Staff Writer



The lounge hosts open night mic on Tuesdays and 11th Hour poetry slam the second Friday of every month.

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Charles Metz III - Cartoonist

Absentee Ballot, Voting Process Leaves Voters Skeptical, Unsure

For college students who are attending school outside of their home state, absentee voting is one of the only options that they have in order for their voices to be heard in the upcoming election. Most states require the ballots to be received by the close of the polls on Election Day.

However, there are states, such as Alabama, Alaska, Iowa, D.C., Washington and Maryland that have postmark and receipt due dates that are after Nov. 4. Absentee ballots in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida, the most recent swing states, are due the night of Election Day.

Although each state has different laws regulating when absentee ballots are counted, there is uncertainty on whether or not the voice of absentee ballot voters is even heard. While

absentee voting is convenient for those who are out of state, the process of mailing ballots is risky.

Therefore, absentee ballots in each of the 50 states should be due prior to Election Day, especially in the swing states.

The nomination of Barack

The 2004 presidential election left many voters skeptical of the process in which their votes are counted.

Often times, Americans of voting age are deterred from voting because of the hassles associated with the process. This election is far too important for eligible voters, especially young people, not to vote.

It is our charge that each Secretary of State preside over the voting process in an ethical and accountable manner.

Our country is experiencing a unique transition and no matter the outcome, it will indeed be historical.

As voters, it is our responsibility to meet deadlines and to ensure that we do our part to get our voices heard.

Our View:
Regardless of the outcome of the elections, as young voters, we need to be sure to get our voices heard and to be proactive in society.

Obama and Sarah Palin will inspire certain demographics of voters that have never voted before; and a large majority of these voters will be college students.

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

DO YOU WANT TO WRITE FOR THE HILLTOP?

Come to our next budget meeting!

Sunday @ 6 p.m. in the West Towers

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to the editor or perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on our Web site at www.thehilltoponline.com.

Any inquiries for advertisements or Hilltopics should be directed to The Hilltop Business Office.

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.

Have an Opinion That You Would Like To Share?

Submit your perspective to
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Perspectives should be no less than 500 words.

"Where there is much desire to learn, there of necessity will be much arguing, much writing, many opinions; for opinions in good men is but knowledge in the making."

- John Milton

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The Hilltop prints Hilltopics every day. The first 20 words are \$10 and .25 for eac additional word.

ALL CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE SUBMITTED AND PAID FOR FIVE (5) DAYS IN ADVANCE.

We accept payment in the form of cashier's checks, money orders, an company checks. NO CASH

Any questions? Contact The Hilltop Business Office at (202)806 4749 or email us at hilltopbusiness@gmail.com

The Ladies of Alpha Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Present...
The 17th Annual Woman to Woman Conference Information Session 2
Wednesday, September 24, 2008
Blackburn Digital Auditorium 7pm

The Ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Present...
Friday 9/26 Who's Got Game? (Open Night)
All Events Will be held in DGH 8-14
7pm

Ladies of The Quail Social Club Present...
The Art of a Lady Mind Body and Soul
September 22-25, 2008
Harriet Tubman Quail Eagle
7:00 PM
Monday
Mind: College 101
Tomb Hall
Tuesday
Body: The Care and Keeping of Your Crandall Hall
Wednesday
Soul: The Lady That Blooms from Within
Fraser Hall
Thursday
Mix and Mingle
Crandall Hall

Casting Call...
Do You Sing, Dance, Act, Write or Play an Instrument?
The Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Present...
INTERVIEW AUDITIONS
Wednesday, September 24, 2008
8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Douglas Rm 223
AND
Wednesday, October 1, 2008
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Douglas Rm 223

The Zeta Phi Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity presents... Rush Week: The Golden Standard.
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