

Howard University

Digital Howard @ Howard University

The Hilltop: 2000 - 2010

The Hilltop Digital Archive

11-21-2008

The Hilltop 11-21-2008

Hilltop Staff

Follow this and additional works at: https://dh.howard.edu/hilltop_0010

Recommended Citation

Staff, Hilltop, "The Hilltop 11-21-2008" (2008). *The Hilltop: 2000 - 2010*. 558.
https://dh.howard.edu/hilltop_0010/558

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the The Hilltop Digital Archive at Digital Howard @ Howard University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Hilltop: 2000 - 2010 by an authorized administrator of Digital Howard @ Howard University. For more information, please contact digitalservices@howard.edu.

WEATHER



40

25

Tomorrow:



38

28

Established

1924

Friday's
Notebook

CAMPUS

'REAL TALK' ALLOWS STUDENTS TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS AT MIDNIGHT IN SLOWE AND CARVER.

PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD

TEACHERS IN MEXICO ARE TARGETS OF GANGS. READ ABOUT WHY THESE GANGS ARE TRYING TO EXTORT THEM.

PAGE 3

SPORTS

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR ANDRE CREAMER SPEAKS ABOUT THE DEFENSIVE SIDE OF THE BALL AND THE TEAM AS A WHOLE.

PAGE 5

THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO. 63

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Friday, November 21, 2008

College of Medicine Celebrates 140th Anniversary

*The building recognized as the 'go-to' place for African-Americans is commemorated for more than a century's work*BY AISHA JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

The Howard University College of Medicine, one of the leading producers of female surgeons and African-American medical school graduates, will celebrate their 140th anniversary this Saturday.

As one of the region's oldest medical schools, the College of Medicine has trained 50 female surgeons since its first female graduate in 1977. The College of Medicine is a top contender in comparison to one of the world's most prestigious medical schools, Johns Hopkins University, which has only produced 21 female surgeons since its inception in 1893.

According to the dean of Howard University's College of Medicine,

Robert E. Taylor, gender diversity has always been of importance and is based on the mission of the university. "At a time when women couldn't even vote, we were admitting and graduating them," Taylor said.

However, experts say there is a shortage of female surgeons, which is expected to deepen substantially in the coming years. Dr. Debra Ford, a graduate of Howard's surgery training program in 1991 who is now vice chair of the Department of Surgery, feels this is due to the lack of recruitment of women in the specialty of surgery.

"The numbers are increasing of women coming out of medical school and choosing medical careers," Ford said. "But it's not increasing at a high enough rate to meet the demand we know we're

going to need in the future."

Ford, who is also the director of the General Surgery Residency Program, graduated at the top of her class. Despite the opportunities to continue on her career elsewhere, she chose to stay at Howard among her peers. "I wanted to train here with some of the best African-American surgeons in the world," she said.

Howard University continues to produce more medical degrees to African-Americans than any other institution in the nation. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, Howard graduated 77 African-American students compared to its closest competitor, the University of Maryland, which only graduated 35 in 2007.

Dr. Wayne Frederick, the current director of the Cancer Center, is also a

graduate of the Howard College of Medicine. He was an exceptionally smart teenager from Port of Spain, Trinidad, suffering with sickle cell disease and looking for somewhere to attend college. Frederick graduated high school at the age of 14 and began at Howard at age 16.

"Howard is a place that was very warm and accommodating, everyone was very encouraging," Frederick said.

Frederick's mother approved of Howard University because it is one of the few schools that had a Sickle Cell Center. He earned his bachelor and medical degrees at the university, and completed his residency in general surgery at Howard University Hospital, an experience he feels he couldn't gain anywhere else.

"I always refer back to a speech Barack Obama made during the 2004

Democratic National Convention," he said. "He made a comment about how only in America this could happen. I think the same way about Howard, I think only at Howard could someone at my age without many means receive two degrees and become a surgeon."

Dean Taylor described the College of Medicine as the "go-to place," among African Americans. According to Taylor, here, students can learn about health disparities and get involved in a career of service. Often times, there are incoming students who attend major high schools, colleges and universities who can go to any medical school in the country, but choose Howard.

"They want to come back to the mission of serving under-served communities," he said.

Professor Places First
In Marine Corps RaceBY JAMES MURRAY
Contributing Writer

Howard University mathematics professor Lou Shapiro completed an impressive display of athletic longevity on Oct. 31, placing first in his age group at the 2008 Marine Corps Marathon.

Shapiro, 67, finished first among males, ages 65 to 69, clocking in at 3:31:12.

In its 33rd year, the Marine Corps Marathon has allowed military members and civilians alike to join together in promoting goodwill in the community.

The marathon has garnered an impressive reputation since its inception, becoming the eighth largest marathon in the world and earning the nickname "The People's Marathon."

It is the largest marathon in the world that does not offer prize money.

Shapiro does not care about the money, however. He simply enjoys the challenge.

"I run a lot of marathons," he said. "I'm in pretty good running shape. The average person walking down Georgia Avenue can't run a marathon."

In his 41st year as a professor at the Mecca, Shapiro endured extensive training to prepare for the marathon.

"Training is difficult. You always wish you had one more month to train," he said. "I trained for about five weeks. I

started running about 30 miles per week then upped it to 40 [miles] per week."

As a long-distance runner, Shapiro's path to victory has been somewhat out of the ordinary. The mathematics professor did not pursue the endurance-driven sport of long-distance running until he was 59 years old.

"I started to run about eight years ago to lose weight," Shapiro said. "My son urged me to get into a race and much to my surprise, I did OK."

In fact, he is no stranger to success in the sport, placing second in last year's Marine Corps Marathon and claiming victory in the Veterans Day 10K Race. But despite his success, he acknowledges the fact that completing a 26.2-mile race can be physically grueling.

"Every time I finish, I swear I'm never going to run another one," he said.

But, somehow his love for the sport always keeps him coming back for more. For the 67-year-old, running is more than a weight loss method.

"It feels good," he said. "I get a chance to meet a lot of people outside of the university setting. I'm happy to represent Howard."

Professor Shapiro welcomes any avid runners who would like to join him. He can be located in the math department, room 203.

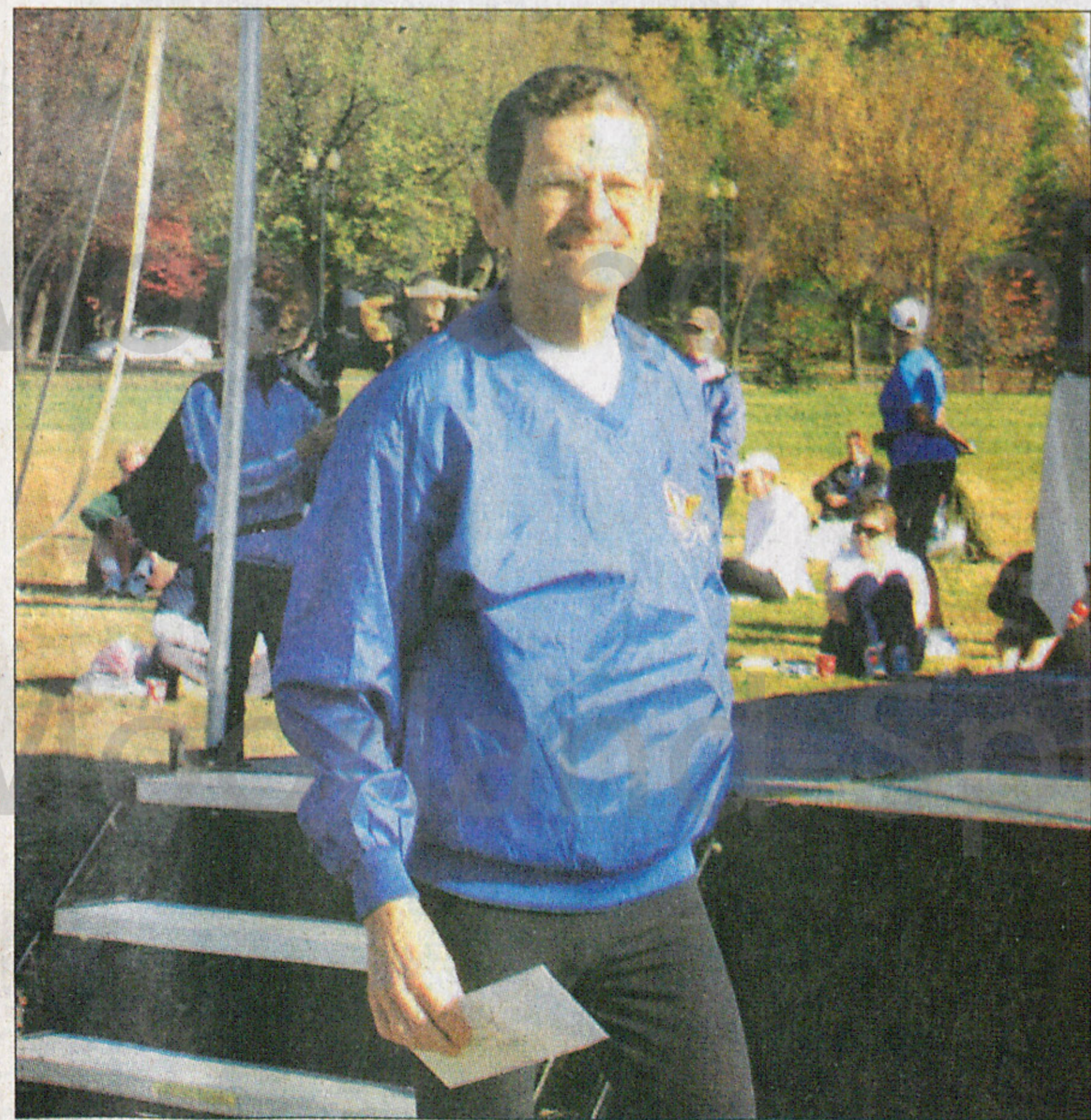


Photo Courtesy of Lou Shapiro

Professor Lou Shapiro placed first in his age group in the 2008 Marine Corps Marathon. Shapiro, 67, started running about eight years ago to keep in shape.



Chuck Kennedy - McClatchy Newspapers

The heads of General Motors arrived in D.C. via their own private jets, although their companies are supposedly in need of \$25 billion.

American Auto Bailout Refused

BY DAVID LIGHTMAN
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

WASHINGTON — If there's a single moment that explains why Congress refused Thursday to give the ailing American auto industry immediate help, it came the day before when Rep. Brad Sherman asked company executives to raise their hands if they'd flown to the nation's capital on commercial airlines.

No hands went up.

Then, the California Democrat asked the heads of General Motors, Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC, who were testifying before the House Financial Services Committee on Wednesday, whether they were planning to sell their corporate jets and fly home commercial.

Again, no hands went up.

Industry spokesmen explained later that they have travel policies to follow and safety considerations, but the public relations damage had been done.

"I know it wasn't planned, but these guys flying in their big corporate jets doesn't send a good message to people in Searchlight, Nev., or Las Vegas or Reno or any place in this country," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), said Thursday.

He and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), agreed to delay until next month consideration of aid to Detroit's auto makers after finding they lacked the votes for even a last-minute compromise on a \$25 billion loan.

"Until we can see a plan where the auto industry is held accountable and a plan for viability on how they go into the future ... until they show us the

plan, we cannot show them the money," Pelosi said.

Their decision, reached at a hastily called private early afternoon meeting, came after nearly a week of tension among congressional lawmakers, the White House and the industry.

They all agreed that the carmakers need help, and the executives warned Congress their industry could collapse within weeks without it. Economists disagree about whether that necessarily would devastate the Midwest and United States economies or whether conventional bankruptcy might be a better solution, but the chance of devastation is real.

"The U.S. Government, giving financial support to the three major auto companies goes against the concept of free enterprise," said Darryl Hall, a sophomore undecided major. "If Ford, Chrysler and GM can't sustain themselves, then let them fall and other companies will rise in its place."

However, several developments converged to make it impossible for lawmakers to cut a \$25 billion check, factors that are still likely to be present next month.

Lawmakers found their constituents are increasingly leery of October's \$700 billion financial rescue passage. In the past few weeks, its uses have been questioned, and last week, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson changed the plan's direction, saying he wouldn't use the money to buy troubled mortgages and bad assets, but instead would try to help unregulated financial institutions that aren't banks but are important to consumer lending.

"There's a lot of skepticism in Pennsylvania and across the nation about

the \$700 billion, because of the lack of results," said Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.). Constituents were saying that carving out \$25 billion to help auto makers, as many Democrats wanted to do, seemed to add another unfathomable layer to an already murky endeavor.

Also helping to derail momentum for the auto aid was President-elect Barack Obama's comment Sunday on CBS' "60 Minutes" that help for the auto industry "can't be a blank check." He urged the White House, Congress and the industry to develop a plan for the aid.

Supporters of aiding the carmakers thought those questions would be answered Tuesday and Wednesday when the auto executives and United Auto Workers president Ronald Gettelinger testified before congressional committees.

Instead, many lawmakers grew angrier.

"They just weren't saying anything," Christopher Dodd (D-Conn., Senate Banking Committee Chairman said, after the hearings.

Come back Dec. 2 with a specific blueprint for the money, Reid told the auto makers. Dodd's committee and the House Financial Services Committee could hold hearings that week.

If, Reid said, "they present a viable plan that gives us, the Congress, the confidence that taxpayers and the auto workers will be well served," Congress would return the week of Dec. 8 to deal with it.

--Additional Reporting by Omari Evans, Staff Writer

INDEX

Campus 2

Nation & World 3

Sports 4

Editorials & Perspectives 5

Hilltopics 6

Students Discuss Trend of Phrase 'No Homo'

BY BRITTANY HARRIS
Contributing Writer

Raising awareness for Transgender Remembrance day, students gathered in Drew Hall lounge last night in an open forum which created open dialogue on homosexuality.

The day honors people who have fallen victim to murders just for being transgender.

The program was mediated by Drew Hall resident assistant, Malik Washington and opened with a video countering the origin and trend of the phrase "NO HOMO."

According to the film, the phrase originated and was popularized by Dipset artist and rapper, Cam'ron, who used the phrase as a means to defend the pink shirt fashion statement. Since then, the phrase has commonly been used within the African-American community and has been taken offensively by those of the homosexual community.

"It's weird," said Amari Ice, panelist and president of BLAGOSAH. "Whenever someone does say it, they don't understand the impact of their language. It bothers me because you should be comfortable in your own skin."

The term itself has been used as a means to defend one's sexuality and masculinity. This lead to the discussion of what actually defines masculinity. According to Joey Gaskins, panelist and diversity student coordinator for the Human Rights Cam-

paign, society has constructed and built masculinity on clothing, hobbies, professions and perception.

"As complicated as our minds are, we have the tendency to dichotomize things," Gaskins said. "When we begin to embrace that someone who is masculine can be gay, we'll be better and there will be no need for the 'NO HOMO'."

The open discussion also discussed the interaction between heterosexual and homosexual men.

"The relationship is improving," Ice said. "Before, there wasn't as much awareness, and people weren't comfortable with talking about it. The more you are aware of something, the better you'll understand."

According to undergraduate trustee and panelist, Victoria Kirby, people usually aren't comfortable with things they don't understand. "It's all about knowledge, and understanding what's out there," Kirby said.

The panel also discussed the possibility of a homosexual presidential candidate, and many students agreed they wouldn't win.

Andre Rosaria, vice president of BLAGOSAH, attributed this to two reasons: There is a conservative movement against homosexuality and heterosexuality is enforced in our society.

"In 33 states a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender can be fired from their job for being that. These are hurdles we need to get over [before we can think about one

being a president]," Gaskin said. "There are still major bridges that need to be crossed."

The strong presence of religion in black culture plays a big part in its disapproval of homosexuality.

"I don't like when churches move into politics," Gaskins said.

According to exit polls, 70 percent of African Americans voted against gay marriage in California.

Gaskins participated in pro-

tests in California after the passing of Proposition 8. While Gaskins does come from a religious background, he believes his rights as a citizen are political and the church should not interfere with that.

"Bisexuals, lesbians, gays and transgenders deserve all the rights everyone else who isn't bisexual, lesbian, gay or transgender get. We don't want weddings, we just want the right to get married," Gaskins said.



Bree Gant - Staff Photographer
BLAGOSAH president Amari Ice and Undergraduate Trustee Victoria Kirby participated as panelists on an open forum discussing homosexuality in society.

ON THE SPOT!

What is your favorite thing about Thanksgiving?



"I like when all of my family gets together to fellowship and eat food. Everyone comes from all over and it's like a family reunion in the fall time."

-Camille McCallister,
freshman, biology



"I am looking forward to family, food and football. I like football so I watch it when I go home for Thanksgiving, and being able to spend time with my family. This year I am going to visit my grandparents in Sarasota, Fl. for Thanksgiving."

-Victoria Jennings,
junior, nursing



"I like spending time with my family and I am looking forward to food. We usually go to my aunt's house or to my house in Tennessee. I just can't wait to see my family. I haven't seen them since school started."

-Zaniib Suara,
freshman, biology

-Compiled by Ashley Johnson- Alford,
Staff Writer

Midnight Dorm Discussion Gets 'Real'

BY RONESHA DENNIS
Contributing Writer

Midnight strikes, groups of students in pajamas enter the lounge and sit on comfortable sofas, anxiously waiting to share their opinions on current events, personal experiences and the world at large.

Ryan Jeter, a junior political science major, takes a seat in the center of the Carver Hall lounge, and opens the floor for discussion.

Students are swift. Hands shoot in the air, and finally, a topic is thrown out. It is then discussed, debated and sometimes, dismissed.

Either way, everyone who attended the Wednesday night discussion called "Real Talk" leaves feeling stimulated.

"This is the best outlet that Howard produces right now," said Jeter, a Resident Assistant at Carver. "Real Talk" is the realist form of "The Mecca."

According to Jeter, it is where students can openly discuss sexuality, politics, economics and a wide range of other subjects.

The weekly event was orga-

nized by Jeter in January, after an investment banker came to talk to residents of Carver Hall.

He was turned off by the banker who only discussed money, but did not mention the issues of black males in society.

The following week, Jeter began the "Real Talk" program, in hopes that residents would share their thoughts with an understanding that everything said would be respected.

Residents of Carver, the Bethune Annex and the Tubman Quadrangle soon became regular attendees.

"I was interested in having [the male] point-of-view on certain issues," said sophomore English major Taneeka Hanna. "You can talk to your girlfriends all day, but you never get a real answer until you have two sides."

Hanna, a regular attendee of last semester's "Real Talk" discussions, is now a resident of Slowe Hall, the discussion's new co-sponsoring dorm.

"Real Talk" was brought to Slowe when Jeter and junior musical theatre major Brittany Bradshaw, a Slowe Hall R.A., saw a need for the

two dorms to create a bond.

"There was no connection with Slowe [Hall]," Jeter said. "[The dorm] is around the corner, and many residents move from Carver to Slowe."

"Real Talk" discussions now alternate between Wednesdays at midnight in Carver, and Wednesdays at 10 p.m. in Slowe.

The most recent discussion, held on Wednesday in Carver's lounge, brought both new and old faces, including Karina Taylor, who was a regular attendee at last year's "Real Talk".

"This week's discussion reminded me why I enjoyed 'Real Talk,'" Taylor said. "It was a place to get inside the minds of other Howard students in a more relaxed atmosphere than the all-important 'public forum'."

Jeter said that could be the reason attendees are comfortable with the discussion.

"It's not like a Howard forum," he said. "We can talk about what affects us, and speak in ways we might not be able to, with our parents or administrators."

That's not all the discussion of-

fers. Students who attend "Real Talk" also plan solutions and set out on ways to become leaders in the global community.

Wednesday night's discussion was centered on the growing adversities on Howard's campus and among African Americans.

Sophomore public relations major Taneesha Williams, a first time attendee, began the discussion on Howard's decline.

"As black people, we've fallen from where we are supposed to be," Williams said.

Other attendees offered real world solutions to William's suggestion.

"Other races get their needs met because they demand it," said sophomore communications and culture major Amari Ice. "If we want our needs met, we must demand it."

However, racial issues are far from the only subject of "Real Talk" discussions.

Attendees discuss a variety of subjects, and whether they lead to agreements, debate or laughter, the night is always real.

Symposium Seeks Funds For Nano-Research

BY AMBER COLLINS
Contributing Writer

In an effort to seek government funding for research, the second annual Nanotechnology Symposium was held in Blackburn Thursday.

The symposium, which was formed by Howard professors, allowed students and professors to share knowledge and their personal research, serving as a beneficial event for the students.

"You get to meet a lot of people and see the students present their research and what they have achieved," said graduate student Bokami Mtengi. "Learning what goes on in the labs help you see if nanotechnology is a dream or reality."

The two-day event began with speakers from legal and government agencies, followed by a poster session and reception.

Professors also made proposals in efforts to seek funding. HU Keck Center and CREST Center are the two centers devoted to nanotechnology research at Howard University.

"In 1993, nano started at Howard but was not popular," said Dr. Garry Harris, director of the Nanoscale Science and Engineering Facility. "It started to become popular when different products were being used in the real world such as

technology."

In its second year, Harris detailed why the symposium was about more than just the students.

"This symposium is for the Howard community: undergraduate, graduate and professors—for students to show off the work they have done in relation to nanotechnology," Harris said. "It is also open to guest speakers and government agencies. This is also an opportunity for the program to seek funding."

Harris continued, "One way to seek funding [is] open competitions dealing with research proposals [where] they choose the best one. Funding can be up to a year or last more than a year."

To broaden the knowledge about nanotechnology Harris explained the express trailer.

"Lab nanotechnology express trailer is a full functional lab that travels from Boston to Orlando," he said. "It allows people to see science come to life and has seen about 15,000 visitors. It travels during the week with students, technical staff and sometimes myself on board and has seen about 15,000 visitors."

Mihail Roco, a Senior Advisor for Nanotechnology National Science Foundation was a government speaker at the event. Roco spoke to the audience about government spending and how important engineering is to nanotechnology.

"The United States spent 1.5

billion dollars on research in nanotechnology," Roco said. "In addition, one third of the total spending was invested in engineering. Between 2001-2007 District of Columbia Universities were awarded 21.8 million dollars for research."

Kyethann Francis, a graduate chemical engineering student and a first year presenter, focused on fluorescence and lighting scatterings of silver nano particles in her presentation.

"I've had a chance to explore things that have not been done," Francis said. "This symposium can open doors in different avenues. I expect to gain a lot of information and broaden my horizons."

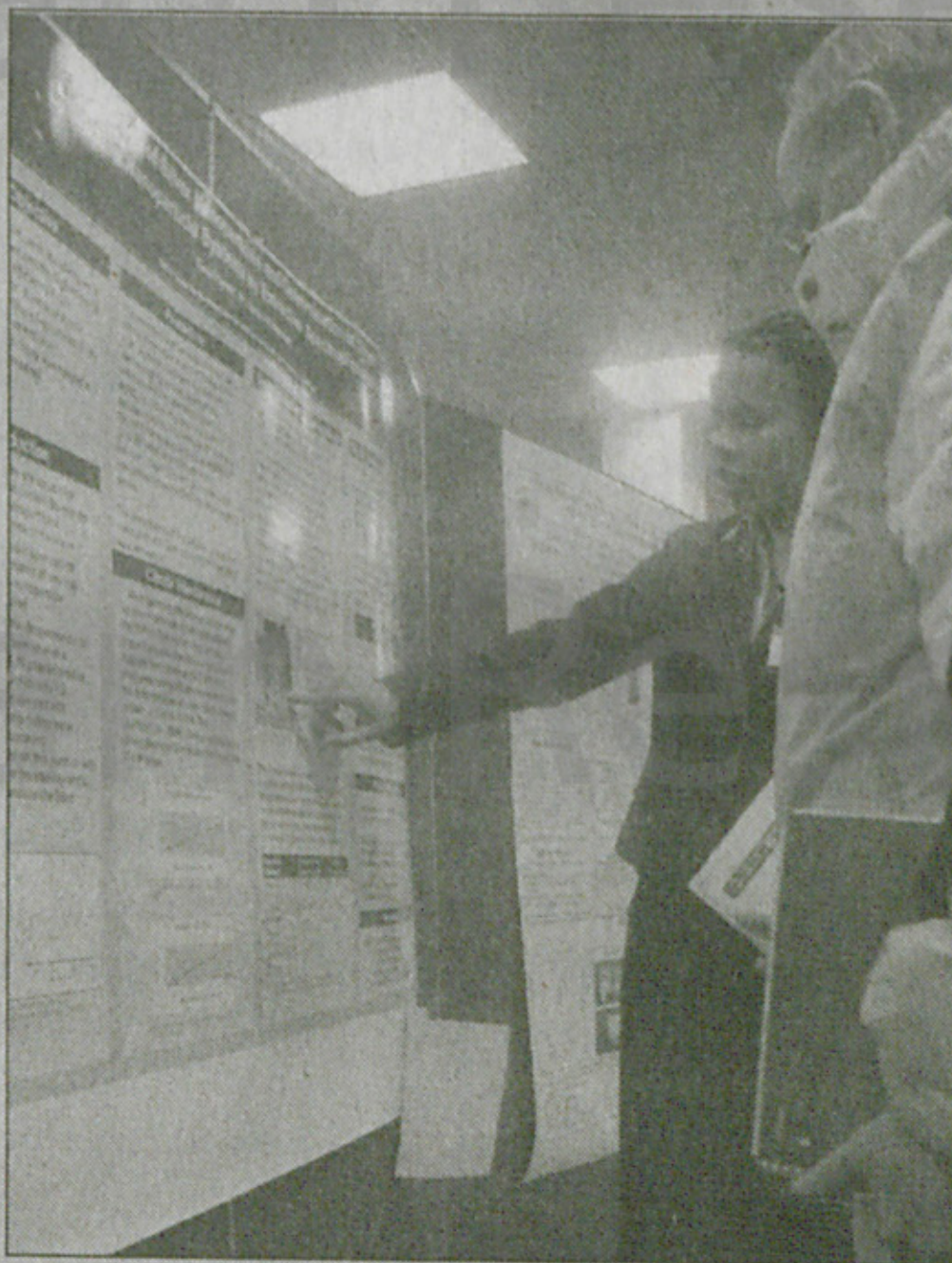
She continued, "So far the most challenging aspect of this project has been getting good results from my experiments."

The process of the experiments are draining, and many students acknowledged the help of Dr. James Mitchel, Crest Center Director.

"Working with professor Mitchel has been great he allows

you to think for yourself and always has an open door policy," said Andy Yuen Hai Ting, who received his masters in May in Chemical Engineering. "Researching and developing findings can take from 6 months to a year."

The symposium will resume today, focusing on the current status and future prospects for the impacts of nanotechnology in industry and health sciences.



Jazelle Hunt - Staff Photographer
Students presented their research before government agencies in order to seek funding.

Teachers Latest Targets of Extortion by Gangs in Mexico

BY LAURENCE ILIFF
The Dallas Morning News (MCT)

MEXICO CITY — Elementary school teachers are the latest victims of an exploding extortion racket in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, as criminal gangs threaten educators to either hand over their coming Christmas bonuses or see harm done to their families or students, teachers' groups say.

With Monday a school holiday and news of the threats spreading in the media, on the Internet and by word of mouth during the long weekend, there were fears that an increasing number of parents would keep their children at home Tuesday, forcing additional schools to close.

At least two schools shut down early Friday for a lack of students.

The extortion against teachers was the latest escalation of the violence and fear that has taken over the city across from El Paso, Texas.

On Tuesday, full-page ads were taken out in local papers by a wide coalition of business, religious, political and social groups asking President Felipe Calderon for more help. The federal government has already sent thousands of federal police and soldiers, but crime has only gotten worse.

Even amid the chaos of drug cartel violence, street crime and protection rackets, the extortion of school teachers — highly respected in Mexican society but often poorly paid — was unprecedented.

"There are a lot of things that are happening for the first time in Juarez," said Oscar Maynez, a professor at the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juarez who is also a former forensics investigator. "First time teachers have been extorted like this, the first time businesses have been burned to the ground for not paying protection money. All types of crimes are exploding."

An estimated 1,400 people have been killed in drug-related violence in Juarez this year.

Maynez said the threats against teachers are real and not rumors, as officials first characterized them.

"I know a teacher in this situation who is worried he will have to give up half of his Christmas bonus and who says other teachers are very worried, too," said Maynez.

Monday was a holiday and officials were not available for comment.

But a Chihuahua state education official, Guillermo Narro, told teachers last week that their concerns would be addressed.

"They came to express their concerns about insecurity," he told reporters afterward. "Some teachers told us that they had been threatened by telephone, that they had received messages asking them for money, that this is extortion or an attempt at extortion, and at the same time some of these messages made reference to their students."

Narro told the teachers to continue giving classes and leave it to the local and state governments to investigate the threats and seek security solutions.

He said the city government had promised to install up to 1,000 "panic buttons" like those used at banks to discreetly signal trouble, according to media reports.

The modus operandi of the extortioners was similar in many schools, according to Alfredo Quijano, editor of the Norte newspaper, which first reported on the phenomenon two weeks ago.

"At the public schools, various men show up at the time school is about to start or just after it ends because that's when the teachers have their daily meetings," Quijano said. "Some of the men enter the school and others stay outside."

Once all the teachers are together, "the men threaten them at gunpoint to hand over their wallets and their purses; they take personal documents with the teachers' names and addresses, and they tell them that they will return on the day that the teachers receive their bonuses," he said.

Called an aguinaldo in Mexico, the Christmas bonuses are far more than a few extra pesos for holiday shopping. For teachers, whose union negotiates such payments with the federal government that employs them, it could amount to a month or more of salary.

Depending on a teacher's level, seniority and other factors, the amount could range from \$1,500 to \$3,000 or more. The bonuses are given via check or direct deposit in the last week of November and the first week of December, depending on the school zone, and finding out that date for any given school would not be hard.

Quijano said that his newspa-



Auxiliadora Granizo, instructional assistant at Beacon Hill Elementary School, helps fourth grader Noe Ramirez, 9, during an after-school homework session. James Brannan - Seattle Times (MCT)

per has documented both personal visits by the extortioners and also threats made via banners hung near school properties. He estimated about 50 schools have received threats of some kind.

Where they are coming from is tough to tell, since there are so many drug cartels and organized crime groups operating in Juarez.

"The men say they're from the 'Chapo' group (in reference to the Sinaloa cartel), or they are Zetas (gunmen affiliated with the Gulf cartel) or that they are from 'La Linea,' which is the Juarez cartel," said Quijano. "Nobody knows who they really are. They could be imitators, local street gangs."

National Briefs

Gun Sales Boom

Since the Nov. 4 election, gun sales across the nation have increased drastically. In Omaha, Neb., the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office has issued 174 gun permits, a 300 percent increase from last year. The Sheriff's Office says they have already surpassed the combined totals from 2006 and 2007.

State Senator Resigns

Massachusetts State Senator Dianne Wilkerson officially resigned this week after being indicted by a federal grand jury and being charged with eight counts of attempted extortion. She accepted more than \$20,000 in cash payments during her time in the State Senate.

IRS Warns of E-Mail Scam

The IRS released a statement warning citizens about a scam email promising an Economic Stimulus refund. A spokeswoman from the IRS said, "The 'very official' looking e-mail messaged alert people about a refund owed to them, but when opened they can be dangerous to you and your computer."

Information Courtesy of CNN.com
Compiled by Jada F. Smith, Nation & World Editor

Get to Know: The Sierra Club

BY KRISTOPHER OWENS
Contributing Writer

The Sierra Club is the oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization in the United States. The Sierra Club has over 700,000 members in chapters located all over the country, with the a goal of supporting and proposing the policies that help conserve the nation's environment.

The Sierra Club was founded in 1892, in San Francisco, CA when professors from University of California at Berkeley and Stanford University worked with John Muir and Warren Olney to launch an organization whose mission is to "To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives."

From the Sierra Club's first lobbying victory with Yellowstone National Park to their most notable victory that brought the organization national recognition by lobbying to get the two dams built in the Grand Canyon, had made it a force in the conservation community.

The Sierra Club is governed by a 15-member-volunteer Board of Directors. Each year, five directors are elected to three-year terms, and all Club members are eligible to vote. A president is elected annually by the Board by its members and receives a small paid incentive.

Most chapters are state wide chapters that have special interest groups and task forces that address particular issues on the appropriate levels (national and local).

The Sierra Club publishes a bimonthly magazine, that every member receives, that highlights the things that club is doing and issues in the environment, and each chapter is responsible for publishing a newsletter. The Sierra Club also broadcasts a weekly radio show called The Sierra Club Radio Show.

Another initiative of the Sierra Club is the Sierra Club Foundation. The foundation is a public charity that funds The Sierra Club and other environmental organizations. They fund a wide variety of environmental project that fall under the categories of public education, litigation and training.

The Sierra Club is crossing boundaries by starting chapters in Canada and in Puerto Rico. The Sierra Club Canada, started in 1963, focuses on similar issues as the Si-

erra Club in the United States, the organization in Canada also sets up different chapters in the different provinces.

Some of the Sierra Club's initiatives right now are focusing on clean air with the the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Appeals Board ruling that the EPA has no reason for refusing to limit carbon dioxide emission of coal power plants, an issue supported by the Sierra club. The Club also focuses on helping inner city children get outdoor experiences.

The Sierra Club has introduced more than 12,000 children to the outdoor experience since the start of the inner city program.

With the historic presidential election and the Sierra Club's endorsement of President-elect Barack Obama, the endorsement has made new ground for the club. President elect Barack Obama has chosen members of the Sierra Club to on his transition team. Sophomore, broadcast journalism major, Jackie Ross said, "It is important to have them to represent the environmental stand point with the selection of this new administration because that is their main focus."

Ross' feelings are shared by many Sierra Club members that there is only hope for the environment in the future.

Global Briefs

More Trouble in The Congo

The U.N. Security Council unanimously voted to send 3,000 additional troops to the Democratic Republic of Congo yesterday, making it the largest peacekeeping force in the world. A resolution from the Security Council said the have "extreme concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation and in particular the targeted attacks against civilian population, sexual violence, recruitment of child soldiers and summary executions."

Blast Kills One in Bangkok

A grenade killed one person and wounded 23 others in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday when it was thrown into a crowd of anti-government protestors camped out in front of the Thai Prime Minister's office.

China and Peru Ink Trade Deal

China and Peru officially signed a free-trade agreement this week, strengthening the ties between the two fastest growing economies in Asia and Latin America. The pact is expected to slowly eliminate tariffs on close to 90 percent of goods traded between the two countries.

Information Courtesy of CNN.com
Compiled by Jada F. Smith, Nation & World Editor

US Airways Restores Bonus Miles

BY JEFFERSON GEORGE
The Dallas Morning News (MCT)

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Following an outcry from frequent fliers, US Airways has brought back mileage-award perks for regular customers — a rare reversal in this era of more fees and fewer benefits for travelers.

The airline said Thursday morning that it is restoring bonus miles and minimum mileage awards for frequent fliers. Even better for road warriors: The changes will be retroactive.

In February, US Airways became the first major airline to stop giving frequent fliers a minimum of 500 miles for short flights. In June, it dropped bonus miles awards, cost-

ing those at the highest level of the airline's Dividend Miles program half the miles they would have gotten without the change.

No other major airlines have eliminated bonus miles, and US Airways has been roundly criticized on Internet message boards and elsewhere for the cuts in frequent-flier awards.

With many customers pledging to switch airlines, US Airways reversed course Thursday.

"Our Dividend Miles Program members are extremely important to us," said Andrew Nocella, senior vice president for marketing and planning, in a statement, "and these changes reflect our continued commitment to delivering the best product with the most value to our customers."



US Airways customers protested the airline's implementation of a policy that would strip them of earned frequent flyer miles. Handout (MCT)

Bison's Own Andre Creamer Talks Defense, Improvement

BY EDEN GODBEE
Contributing Writer

During a 1984 game between the Tennessee Volunteers and Alabama Crimson Tide, Coach Andre Creamer played like a star. It was the fourth quarter, Alabama was up and Creamer carried the ball himself 45 yards for a punt return that led to Tennessee scoring a touchdown and winning the game.

Coach Andre Creamer was 10 years old when he began playing little league football in Baltimore, Md. His first position was quarterback.

"I always wanted to play football," Creamer said. "I was always drawn to chasing the ball. I enjoyed the fact that I could hit people, I'm a competitor."

Creamer graduated from the University of Tennessee and has since been a defensive coach at SUNY Buffalo, Delaware State, Morgan State, Southern Utah and Tennessee State University, before coming to Howard.

At Howard University, Creamer has the titles of assistant football coach, defensive players and linebacker coach. To improve the defensive players this year, he implemented a program where fundamental football is stressed.

"Each game we try to improve. When you're building a program every game is important. We are working on the team," Creamer said. "On the defense side, we run plays; we work on the fundamentals of each play. I see the guys' development and we are working to play smarter as a team."

As far as which player he thinks embodies the essence of a true football athlete, Creamer said senior linebacker Endor Cooper without hesitation.

"Endor Cooper is the leader on defense," he said. "He's trying to go to the NFL; he wants to take his playing to another level. He works hard and he's football smart."

Creamer thinks football is about making his players mentally and physically strong.

"Football is a mental game. This team needs players who are academically strong and are strong players," Creamer said. "Arando Jamison mentally understands the game. Martin Corniffe and Will Croner are also strong players."

By strengthening each player and the team, Coach Creamer, along with the rest of the football staff, is working toward strengthening the football program and he thinks new facilities will do the trick.

But he knows that will not come without more victories. Creamers' theory is that when young people see things materialize, they become intrigued.

Creamer believes new facilities will invoke a new feeling and rejuvenation of



Photo Courtesy of Howard University Sports Information Office

Defensive Coordinator and Coach Andre Creamer believes the team will improve next year.

all Howard University athletics.

"While I was at UT [University of Tennessee], I was able to see a program blossom," Creamer said. "Bigger Bowl games earn more money. In order to upgrade there needs to be revenue. So with us working on the actual football part of it, we want the crowd to come out so they can bring revenue into the program."

As the 2008-09 football season comes to a close, Creamer realizes what has plagued the team a lot is injuries. Next year brings room for improvement, in Creamer's eyes.

"This year we had to play the same guys for full games and guys who aren't ready," he said. "A lot of our young players that should be redshirts are playing full games against grown men who have been in the weight room for years."

Despite the injuries, according to Creamer, they are still focusing on the

team's dynamic as a solution to their unsuccessful record.

"We want our guys to become a team," he said. "We want them to realize that you work with the team and you can't be selfish." He said when the team wins, it as a whole and everyone has a role in that.

Creamer said teams success is one of the biggest rewards as a coach. "I enjoy seeing my players succeed on and off the field," he said. "From my playing experience, we played incredible players, every time. When we played in a game it was easy to us, it was fun. I enjoy seeing my players have fun. I instill in my guys to be able to play and perform academically."

Creamer stands firm on the belief that each player represents the name on the front and the back of their jersey.

He said "the most important factor" is that they represent the right way.

Senior Lady Bison Switches Sports

Senior Reyna Gross transitions from basketball to cheerleading

BY BRITTNEY BREWINGTON
Contributing Writer

Fifth-year senior Reyna Gross thought her mind was made up and basketball was her life. However, last year, during her second basketball season with the Howard women's basketball team, she began having second thoughts that led her to ponder the possibility of cheerleading.

While growing up in Seattle, basketball was always Gross's passion and she was often called a tomboy by those in her neighborhood.

"When I was younger, I use to climb trees and play basketball with the boys," Gross said.

The oldest of eight siblings, Gross would always watch her cousins play basketball and soon adopted the same interests.

"When I was younger, I would go to my aunt's AAU practices," she said, "and as soon as I became of age, I joined the same team."

According to Gross, sweats, basketball shorts, a bookbag with shoes hanging on the outside and a basketball under her arm comprised the usual attire of Gross on any given day.

Hard work at a junior college in Seattle allowed Gross to be recruited by former Howard Women's Basketball Coach Kathy Parson.

Though her family did not want her to travel far, she had developed a strong relationship with the coach.

As a point guard, Gross had made an impact while on the team and considers one of her best moments to be when she got a double-double in the last regular season game, scoring 19 points with 10 assists.

Despite her on-court success, Gross still began to lose her passion for the game.

"For me, basketball had become

too programmed and often robotic," Gross said. "The fun was taken out of the sport and replaced with too much business."

Gross considers herself an avid dancer, and appreciated the fact that Howard cheerleaders displayed dance moves in their routines. While both teams would be in the gym, during practice, she would always joke with her teammates about possibly joining the cheerleaders.

"Don't dare me to do something, cause then I feel like I have something to prove," said Gross jokingly.

On the second to last day of cheerleading tryouts, Gross convinced cheerleading coach Spencer Chenier to allow her to tryout.

Even though she felt she did horribly, she made the team, and is now a member of the White Squad. And she wouldn't change anything about her decision.

"I have a huge respect for cheerleaders. We practice five days a week and sometimes on Saturday at 6 a.m., not to mention the weight lifting and conditioning," said Gross.

Ironically, her team even cheers for the women's basketball team.

"It will be weird being on the other side of things, but I am very excited."

Overall, Gross is happy with her decision to switch sports.

"Even though some people were disappointed that I might not play basketball professionally, I am very happy with my decision," said Gross.

Graduating in May with a degree in Legal Communications, Gross's 2008 motto is "to roll with the punches or get knocked out." It's safe to say this young lady has defeated many odds and is Howard's own rendition of MTV's "Made: I Want to be a Cheerleader."

Athletes Participate in Advisory Committee

BY HEATHER ROBINSON
Contributing Writer

Although the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) is relatively unknown throughout Howard's campus, it's purpose proves to be essential for student athletes.

Daniel Kinney, president of SAAC and senior international business major, has been a mentor of this relatively unknown committee since his sophomore year.

"SAAC is the voice of the MEAC, voice of the athletes," Kinney said. "[It] is a national organization; every university should have one."

The purpose of SAAC is to promote teamwork, person development, to perform community service and resolve issues for athletes on campus. It serves as a medium between athletes and the athletic administration.

"Each team has two or three representatives, male and female," Kinney said. "Problems and concerns are discussed within the teams, and then taken to SAAC; then the president and vice president take it to the [athletic director]."

The organization also offers programs and workshops such as a life skills workshop that prepares athletes for the world outside athletics, along with a drug awareness workshop and other various health workshops.

SAAC recently visited Howard's on-campus middle school, Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science, and spoke about the role of an athlete, why they chose to be an athlete and what they learned as athletes.

There seems to be a lack of interest, mostly because athletes are either unaware that the organization exists or they don't have the time to become an active participant.

It's up to the athlete to take the initiative. Coaches are supposed to tell the athletes about the committee and explain what it does, but it is apparent the athletes are somehow not becoming aware.

"I wish it was mandatory now because it would gain interest and teach people what SAAC does," Kinney said. "It would also help them learn how it helps them. After [the first meeting], it shouldn't have to be mandatory."

In order to raise awareness about the organization, Kinney plans on putting together more social events in the near future and hopefully by the end of the 2008-09 school year, will join the undergraduate student assembly organizations.

Kinney, although frustrated by the lack of interest and support from his fellow athletes, understands that student-athletes must first be a student and then be an athlete. Anything after those two things becomes difficult to balance.

The "Help the Homeless Walk," on Nov. 22, a Thanksgiving donations drive, is to raise money for the preparation of dinners for the homeless. There will also be a teddy bear drive in December, in which all teddy bears are going to local elementary schools around the D.C. area.

For more information contact SAAC at SAAC.howard@gmail.com.

Make sure you get all of your work done before Thanksgiving Break!

Only fours days of classes when we get back!!

Be safe and eat well!

Love,
The Hilltop

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

November 21, 1971

Today marked the first time the Australian Tennis Open was played.

Courtesy of www.todayinsports.com

Sports Trivia!

What college did Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Jack Del Rio play linebacker for?

Answer:

Search The Hilltop for the answer to today's question!



Vanessa Rozier - Editor in Chief

Letter from the Editor: Trip to Africa Births Rededication

I feel like I just stepped out of the end of "School Daze" with Lawrence Fishburn yelling "wake up!" Going to Africa opened my eyes to another world – a world where you don't just do for yourself but for others, where you help the poor and the wealthy at the same time, where you take the atrocity from genocide and become stronger.

I was so fortunate to travel to Rwanda last week with four of the most intelligent Howard students you can find. As representatives of the Howard student body, we attended a conference on appropriate technology and looked for ways for the Mecca to truly become leaders for the global community.

After making a two-day trip to a country that caused most of my family to be concerned about my safety, I landed in Rwanda and understood why Marcus Garvey and others wanted us to go back to. I was able to see the greenest, richest land, the most beautiful, kindhearted people and, most importantly, the most innovative ways to advance the whole of their people.

For those of you who were like me and have no idea what appropriate technology is, it's basically, applying the right types of technological advances to that specific region.

For example, it's not appropriate to bank on powering

your country with hydro-power if water is nowhere to be found. But it would be appropriate to turn available resources into a way of becoming self-sustainable.

It's crazy how much Rwanda is ahead of the rest of the world – especially the United States. Although they are still dealing with French and German influences that existed from the beginning of colonization where they measured eyes and noses to divide a nation, they are truly leading the world in how to be a government for the people.

I was only there for a week but they have universal healthcare – something that certain presidential hopefuls thought was not the government's place to do.

They are in the midst of granting internet service to the entire country – even the rural mountains positioned in the numerous hills that earn them the title of the "country of a thousand hills."

They are providing one laptop per child – throughout the whole country. They are even working on ridding the stigma of being the "dark continent" by providing electricity to everyone. Notice how many times I said the whole country, the entire country and everyone.

There's no Republican thought of giving money to the wealthy so it can trickle down to the poor. There aren't Democrats

fighting to have public services supported and funded by the government. It's just a government for the people.

Learning about all of this, which would never make the mainstream news, woke me up. Howard needs to be real leaders for the world, not just brainwash the slogan into the minds of every student.

Black people need to make sure that they are working for more than just a pay check but for the betterment of a whole. I need to wake up and pay attention – like they sang on the Sister Act 2 soundtrack.

I pledge that *The Hilltop* will make sure that, as the only daily black newspaper in the country, we'll pay attention to what's going on in the Motherland. We'll do our part in making sure that you know what's going on, good and bad, in Africa so you can do something about it. Don't just hold a panel discussion but write your own proposal to have Howard send you abroad. Challenge CSA and ASA to use their connections to influence change.

Let your people know that you care and that a new day is coming.

I mean, our president is black. Who knows what's next.

-Vanessa Rozier,
Editor-in-chief

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

Sports Trivia Answer!

Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Jack Del Rio played football for USC.

Correction: In the November 20 story "Cleanliness a Must for Students Living in Dorms", Mr. Kenyatta Hobson was referred to as a "she."

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

Vanessa Rozier

Editor-In-Chief

Danielle Kwateng

Managing Editor

Traver Riggins

Managing Editor

Mercia Williams-Murray

Deputy Managing Editor

Shivonne Foster

Campus Editor

Linsey Isaacs

Assistant Campus Editor

Christina L. Burton

Business & Technology Editor

Crystal J. Allen

Copy Chief

Afiya Hosten

Assistant Copy Chief

Cierra Jones

Jenise Cameron

Nina Goodwine

Copy Editor

Jessica Littles

Special Issues Editor

Aleesa Mann

Life & Style Editor

Flynne Bailey

Editorials & Perspectives

Editor

Chris Holiman

Multimedia Editor

Charles Metze III

Cartoonist

Eboni Farmer

Online Editor

Lenzy Betters

Layout Editor

Jada F. Smith

Nation & World Editor

Deontay Morris

Sports Editor

Natalie Thompson

Metro Editor

Bree Gant

Travis White

Photo Editors

Faraday Okorafor

Jazelle Hunt

Brandon Washington

Photographers

India Clark

Assistant Business Manager

Kandace Barker

Business Manager

Johnson W. Sattiewhite

Graphic Design Manager

Adedamola Ademiluyi

Advertising Manager

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

2251 Sherman Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20001

(202) 806-4724 (Editorial)

(202) 806-4749 (Business)

hilltopec@gmail.com

hilltopbusiness@gmail.com

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

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.

Do You Have an Opinion on Something???

Submit your perspective to

hilltopeditorials@gmail.com

Perspectives should be no less than 500 words.

(please include your major and classification)

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

All classifieds must be submitted and paid for 5 business days in advance.

We accept payment in the form of cashier's checks, money orders, and 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, Incorporated Present... FIRE ON ICE Friday November 21, 2008 from 10:15pm-12:15am at Herbert Wells Ice Rink, 5211 Paint Branch Parkway Temple Hills, MD 20740 Tickets: \$10 and can be purchased from chapter members and at the door of the venue.

\$5 Per Month can Earn You \$3k Per Month if you Tell Others. Free Web-site to Help You. Listen:(712) 432-1283 code 408736 # WWW.NAYBOY.TBATWO.COM Dr. Nate 202-561-1733

Read The Hilltop ONLINE

PHILADELPHIA WATERICE FREE Hot Cocoa w/STUDENT ID Philly Cheesesteaks Italian WaterIce Funnel Cakes Slice Pizza Philly Chicken Strips Cheeseburgers Smoothies And More!!! Across from the School of Business Delivery Available. 202 483 1429 www.philadelphiawatericeindc.com

Student Leadership Exchange Program

Remember the University Exploratory Committee idea? Let's do something similar with our student leaders. Wouldn't they be better able to serve us if they knew how other students were serving and advocating for their students? I think so. This would be a 2-3 day exchange program between Howard student leaders, and student leaders from other schools in the DC/Maryland/Virginia area. So, not only would we be making our own leaders more effective, we would also be building valuable relationships with nearby institutions. This group would be composed of: HUSA Executive President, General Assembly Chairperson, Policy Board Chairperson, 3 students selected by those chairpersons, and the director or administrator of the program. This would be led by the Executive Branch and funded by the General Assembly. Please join me on Monday, November 24th at 6:00 pm in Locke 304. My contact information is: Charles Taylor. taylorcharles@gmail.com, 580.574.0855

The Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated invite you to support our Annual Africare Fundraising by dining at Uno's Chicago Grill-Union Station Saturday, November 22, 11am-midnight. Pick up vouchers at Student Activities & bring it to Uno's!! Proceeds will benefit Africare.

CHICAGO PEOPLE'S UNION INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR TOILETRY DRIVE FROM NOV. 17-21 WITH DROP OFFS IN THE QUAD, DREW HALL, ANNEX, COOK HALL, AND MERIDIAN DORMS

The Hilltop Business Office would like to thank our office assistants: Irene Brittany Rauni & James

Keep up the good work!

The Ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Alpha Chapter Invite you to the 4th Annual Jazz Social: Rhapsody In Blue November 22, 2008 6:30 pm-9:00 pm Reading Lounge Blackburn Center Tickets are \$10 Contact a member for tickets Cocktail Hour Attire

Alpha Phi Chapter, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. Presents "True Life: I'm in a Sorority at Howard" Ask anonymous questions to the sororities of the Divine 9, Community Service, and Christian. 11/24/08 Blackburn Digital Auditorium. 7:22PM

This place was purchased with blood...be engaged. Study something and take action. -Dr. Gregory Carr

University Exploratory Committee

Wouldn't Howard be better if we visited and learned from other great schools? My idea is to create a committee that would visit 1-3 top Universities each year to examine how they are using innovative solutions to solve problems, educate students, or improve the University as a whole. The only way to truly understand something is to investigate and see it in action.

I see a big disconnect between top management and everyone else at Howard. Let's bring them together. The committee would be composed of: 1 member of the Board of Trustees, 1 Faculty Member, 1 University Administrator, and 3 students appointed by General Assembly. This includes all levels of the university, with a heavy focus on students - just the way it should be.

Please join me on Monday, November 24th at 6:00 pm in Locke 304.

My contact information is: Charles Taylor, taylorcharles@gmail.com, 580.574.0855

The Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Presents... Africare Break-Fast Sunday, November 12, 2008 Blackburn Ballroom 11:08 am

Are you a beast on the mic? UGSA's Verbal Armageddon is on! If you have lyrical talent do not hide it.. unleash it! Tryout November 20th & 21st from 2-5 pm In the UGSA Office Blackburn Suite 108 Please RSVP at vicecoordinator-ugsa@gmail.com to receive further information

Happy Birthday Simone!! Have a GREAT weekend!!

Soul Day Spa and Salon introduces School Daze Tuesdays and Wednesdays 20% off all hair services. 25 Florida Avenue NW Visit www.souldays-pa.com or call 202 986 7685