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**WEATHER****42**  
**28****Tomorrow:****34**  
**27**Established  
**1924**

# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO. 69

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

**Tuesday's  
Notebook****METRO**

FOR THOSE WHO PLAN TO REMAIN IN THE DISTRICT FOR INAUGURAL EVENTS, IT MAY BE BEST TO PLAN TO TRAVEL BY FOOT.

**BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY**

SOME ARE EQUATING THE RECENT RECESSION WITH THE COMING OF JESUS. READ ABOUT THE REVELATIONS OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS.

**LIFE & STYLE**

LEDGEMAGAZINE, AN ONLINE PUBLICATION, INTENDS ON EDUCATING THE HBCU COMMUNITY ABOUT STDs.

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## Student-Run Organizations Appraised by Own Leaders

BY ASHLEY JOHNSON-ALFORD  
Staff Writer

To hold a leadership position on Howard's campus can be a strenuous job with very high expectations, a mission that Howard University Student Association (HUSA) President Nick Owen, HUSA Vice President Kellen Moore and Undergraduate Trustee Victoria Kirby have all vowed to take on.

As the second semester begins, students evaluate their efforts and successes of last semester as the leaders unveil their plans and many changes taking place this upcoming semester.

As the body of student government, officers are responsible for being the voice of the students; they serve as the liaisons between the administration and the students.

Still, some students may feel uninformed as far as the tasks and accomplishments of student government.

Freshman sociology major Chanel Bell said, "I have no idea what they did last semester; so maybe that is an issue in itself. If no one knows what they did, obviously they should make [their work] more apparent."

In efforts to improve, Kirby recalls some things she did not agree with that took place last semester that she is looking to change this semester.

"I would definitely have to say that last semester we could've had better public relations," she said. "Amazingly, we had great turnouts to mostly everything, even with last minute public relation. But imagine if we were able to get the word out earlier — the turnout would be even greater."

Aundrea Gregg, a sophomore political science major said she hasn't seen the faces of some student leaders since they assumed their positions, saying, "I feel like after the officers were elected, I never saw them again."

Contrary to the beliefs that the HUSA officers have been missing in action, sophomore international business major Tiffany Luse said HUSA "did very good last semester. I heard way more about them this year than last year."

However, Gregg feels that some of the initiatives have not been executed properly. "All the things that they said they would work towards and all the plans they had for initiatives and programs, what happened to them? They are nowhere because they did not work on them."

This is a plan that both Owen and Kirby said they plan to focus on more this semester.

"We plan on doing a lot more work with different committees and initiatives," Owen said. "We want to focus more on issues this semester and not just events."

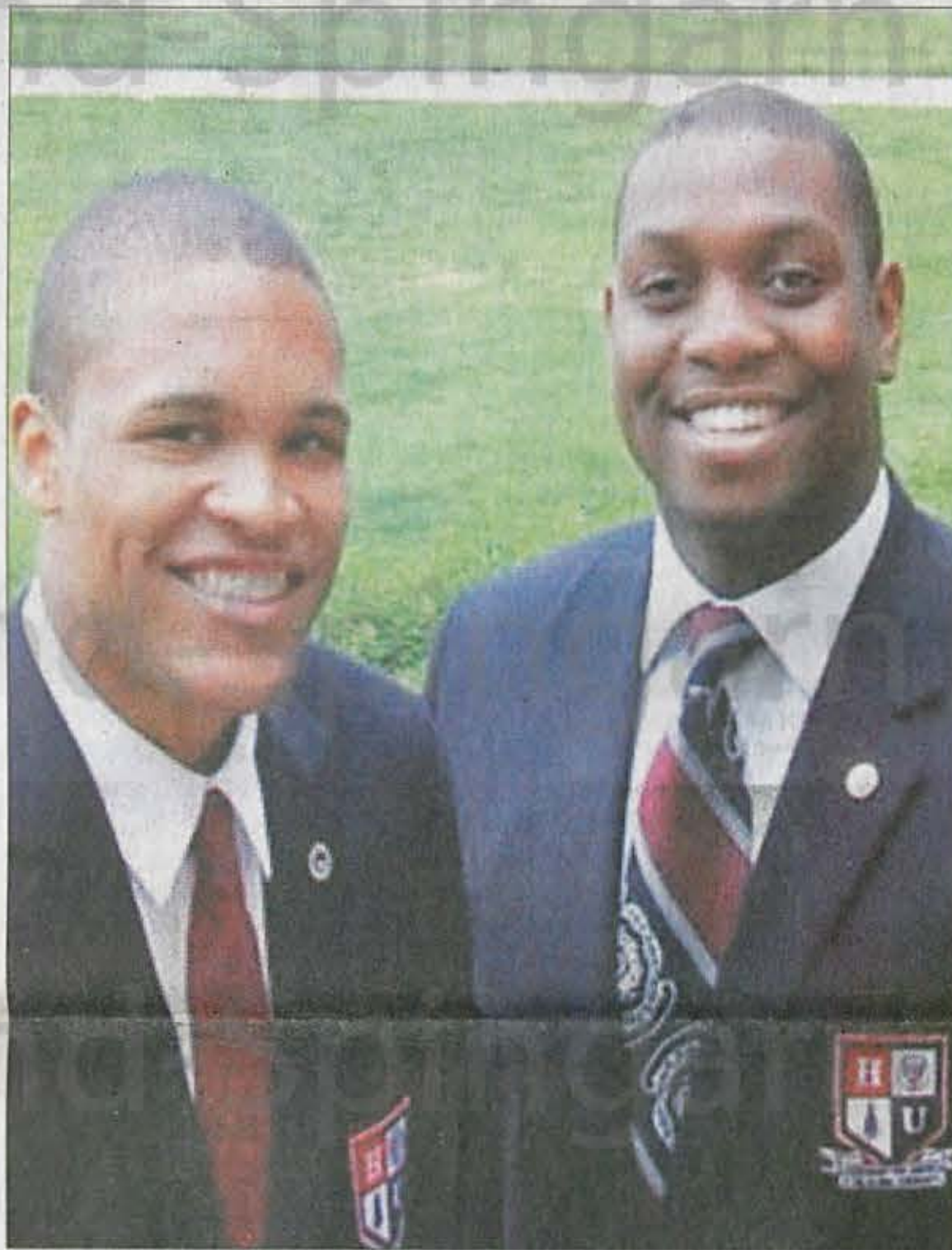


Photo Courtesy of Howard University Office of Communications  
Student leaders like HUSA Vice President Kellen Moore and HUSA President Nicholas Owen are working on initiatives and proposals for the new semester, in addition to hosting programs.

She said the council will still aim to host programs, but will make attempts to incorporate a better understanding about the programs in order to engage more students.

"Last semester we put on a lot of programs, which is good for visibility and great for the council, but now the focus of the Leadership Council is going to be aimed more towards initiatives and more proposals," Kirby said.

She said the council plans on working with HUSA for some of these efforts.

Sophomore political science major Lydia Hickman recalls her most memorable effort of Owen last semester.

"I feel like student leaders should have an influence on the president to help the students," Hickman said. "I remember when Nick wrote a letter to [President Ribea] to extend the purge date as well as the override deadline. I loved that. That was amazing."

Owen said he plans to make even more changes to benefit students this semester.

"Without giving too much detail,

I am dealing with a bunch of initiatives this semester," he said. "I am working on the Tuition and Rates committee that is in charge of looking at the current tuition and deciding whether or not to raise it or keep it as is; so I have a lot of things in the making right now."

Owen said he is confident that this semester he and his HUSA team will be successful in actively being proactive on campus, as junior psychology major President Davis hopes.

"I just hope that HUSA will help to encourage more activism back on campus," he said. "I want the school to be more proactive this semester — especially with Obama being elected."

To answer his request, Nick has already been in the process of planning activities for the remainder of the semester, including a campus-wide march to the Capitol in celebration of the Presidential Inauguration.

"We had a great last semester, but we still have a lot of work to do," Owen said. "I don't want us to stretch ourselves thin, and I want to focus more on the graduate students as well."

## 'Last Republican' is Replaced by Fresh-Faced City Councilman

BY CRYSTAL COOPER  
Contributing Writer

Some 20 years after beginning her tenure at city council, D.C.'s "last republican" has left office.

Former Councilwoman Carol Schwartz makes way for her successor Michael Brown for the city's At-Large council seat.

Appointed Jan. 2, 2009, the registered independent, Michael Brown, brings with him the democratic principles learned from his father. The late Ron Brown served as Secretary of Commerce in the Clinton Administration and former chairman of the Democratic Party.

He made sure to instill in his son "dedication and compassion to unselfishly serve others, particularly those in under served and challenged communities," as stated on the D.C. Council Web site.

Brown's community-oriented highlights include participating in "Go-Go youth summits," serving as co-chairman of AIDS Walk D.C., and supporting D.C. public high schools including Ballou Senior High and Coolidge Senior High. He is a proud native Washingtonian who currently resides in Ward 4.

His appointment did not come without opposition however, given the vast amount of admiration held for his opponent Schwartz.

Lifetime resident of Northwest

D.C. and retired nurse Vivian Brown said most District residents didn't think of Schwartz as a Republican, but simply a council person who held the District's best interests at heart.

"A lot of Democrats were sad to see her go," Brown said. "Most residents did not even know who Michael Brown was and when he won, it almost seemed like a fluke."

Carol Schwartz's former D.C. Council Web page clearly reads at the top, "A central focus for me remains, and will always remain constituent services." This dedication earned her the high esteem she received from her community. It just might do the same for Brown.

**Musical cards**

A new, physical music format offers another alternative to CDs.

**What is slotMusic?**

- Preloaded music cards
- Plays on multiple devices
- Sold on 1 gigabyte cards; includes full album, cover art and liner notes

© 2008 MCT  
Source: AP  
SanDisk Corp.  
Graphic: Melina Yingling

slotMusic card

**Where can it be used?**

- Computer
- MP3 player
- Cell phone

**Where does it go?**

- Cell phones and multimedia players that support microSD cards
- USB connector enables users to listen on computers

Courtesy of Melina Yingling (MCT)  
SlotMusic is a new wave for the music industry, providing a convenient alternative to CDs.

## 'Format of the Future' Comes in Form of Small Memory Card

BY AMBER V. SMITH  
Contributing Writer

If you have not heard the news, CDs are dying.

All albums may soon transition to memory card format, meaning a new music player genre will enter a market where iPods, and the like, currently reign supreme.

In response, leading maker of memory cards, SanDisk, recently introduced a new player into the starting line-up, which plays media files saved on memory cards. The new format is the company's response to CD sales suffering from the increasing popularity of digital downloads.

Instead of purchasing CDs, consumers can buy the memory cards at a cheaper price than currently priced CDs. Major record labels like Jive and Atlantic are supporting the new format. Artists such as Chris Brown, T-Pain and Akon have already released albums on memory cards.

According to SanDisk, the music player is the "format of the future." It uses slotMusic memory cards to go along with the new media player, the slotMusic Player, as well as the already familiar SD memory cards. The player is MP3 and Windows Media Audio file adaptable so that no synchronization is necessary. It also features controls like those found on a CD player and requires only one "triple A" battery.

"With no need for computers or cords, the Sansa slotMusic Player gives people more time to play and

less time to worry about managing or downloading their music," said Daniel Schreiber, general manager and senior vice president for SanDisk.

The player is available in two formats, the standard player and the slotMusic Bundle. The Bundle, sold as an all-in-one package that includes both the player and a built-in album, also displays the artist's name and the album cover. Robin Thicke, for example, is one of several artists featured on the Bundle.

And while a standard, new iPod may run as low as \$100, the SanDisk's player is priced at \$19.99. The Bundle costs \$34.99.

Although an avid Microsoft Zune user, sophomore psychology major Niambi Kanye is considering purchasing the player as a gift. "I think it's a smart idea," she said. "It's very inexpensive, so I know it can fit into my budget."

While Kanye may be excited about the new player, other students say they will stick to downloading.

"I don't want to have to travel to the store to buy the memory cards," said Z'Kera Sims, a senior pre-physical therapy major. "I like the convenience of getting my music without leaving my room."

For people like Sims, though, downloading can still be an option. Users are able to save any of their music files to a memory card and play their music. Users can also play music from the memory cards used in their cell phones or other MP3 players.

## Howard Basketball Teams Battle Bethune-Cookman: Women Win, Men Lose

BY DEONTAY MORRIS  
Sports Editor

The men's and women's Bison basketball teams were both in action Monday night against Bethune-Cookman University in Florida at Moore Gymnasium.

The women's team picked up their first victory of the season, defeating the Cookman Wildcats by a final score of 69-58.

The win snapped a 15-game losing streak and gave first-year head coach Nikki Geckeler the first victory of her career.

"I thought the team played really well tonight," Geckeler said. "We trailed

by nine early but gave it our all in the second half."

Sophomore Zykia Brown scored a career high 31 points. She also added 12 rebounds. Senior Tamaya Daniels added 11 points.

The men's team was not able to obtain a win, they lost to the Wildcats 73-56.

The Bison were dominated in the first half by the Wildcats; they trailed 38-23 at halftime.

Both teams are in action again on Jan. 17.

It will be both teams first home games of the semester. They will be taking on the Winston Salem State University Rams. Tip-off will be at 2 p.m.



# Obama, Post Civil Rights Fallacy

BY SALIM MUWAKKIL  
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

The post-civil rights era is past. Before the huge protest in Jena, La., the media was awash in assessments of a new cohort of black leadership. It consists of well-educated (often from the Ivy League) coalition builders who are non-ideological and who are not nurtured in the race-tinged battleground of the civil rights movement.

The star players in this cohort are Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, Newark Mayor Cory Booker, Washington, D.C., Mayor Adrian Fenty, former Tennessee Congressman Harold Ford, Alabama Rep. Artur Davis, and Philadelphia mayoral candidate Michael Nutter.

The media cast these attractive newcomers as the harbingers of a new America, a nation untroubled by the ogre of rank racism.

By contrast, the media relegated old, race-focused leadership, like that expressed by the Revs. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson, to a supposedly bygone 20th century paradigm.

As a tactic, this new group was supposed to embrace the notion that the protest mode is an ineffective way to redress the racial problems of the 21st century. Increasing numbers of commentators are stressing the need for African-Americans to place more focus on internal social and moral reform than on external protests for civil rights.

This is hardly a new debate. But the Sept. 20 Jena protest revealed that the old currency of civil rights remains highly valued in the black community.

The case of the Jena Six, in which six black high school students were victims of double-standard justice, reawakened people to the relevance of civil rights protests.

The Jena Six case brought it into focus with the presence of rope nooses (an incendiary symbol of racist violence) and the evidence of racial disparities in the punishments meted out to students in a schoolyard fight.

"Jena is just a DNA sample of what's happening around the country," as the Rev. Jackson put it.

Indeed, around the country, African-American males face a criminal justice system that incarcerates them more than eight times the rate of whites.

Most of America's penal institutions resemble festering holding pens for black and Latino youth.

Moreover, the communities from which these youth are siphoned suffer from the absence of their potential.

Jackson not only unearthed the nugget of the Jena protest, the former presidential candidate also inserted that wisdom into the current race.

During a speech at historically black Benedict College in South Carolina, Jackson reportedly chastised Obama for "acting like a white candidate" in his tepid response to the case in Jena.

Although Jackson later softened his comments and reaffirmed his solid support for Obama, he put pressure on the candidate to speak more forcefully about the issue of biased prosecution.

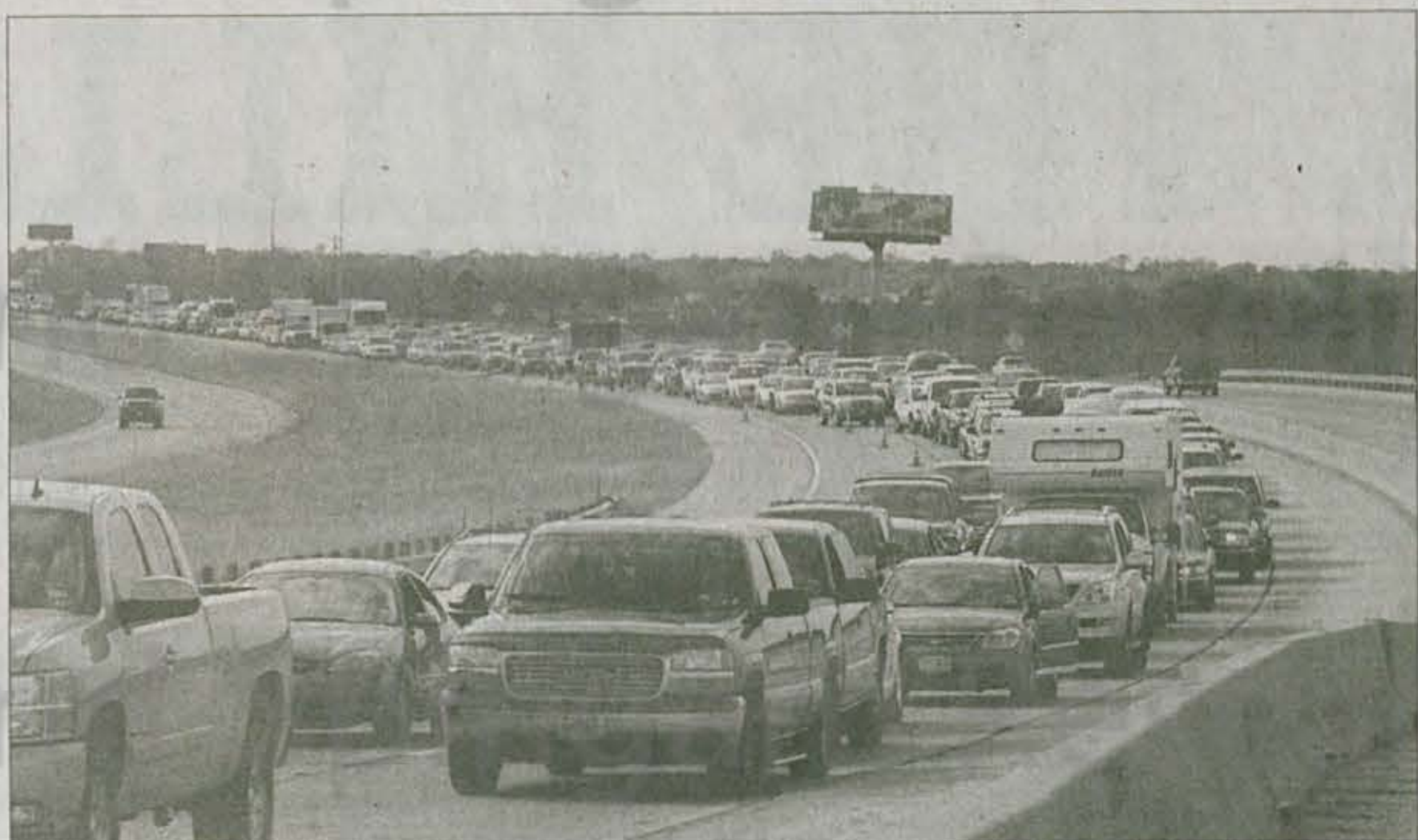
Jackson's more subtle point is that "post-racial" black candidacies are difficult, at best, until this society redresses its racist legacy.

Obama is a black politician seeking national consensus. If he responded to every expression of racial bias, he would alienate his supporters who believe we live in post-civil rights America. However, some African-Americans are uncomfortable that Obama's prospects for success are enhanced by a state of racial denial.

Black America is under the assault of a biased criminal justice system, and the Jena protest was a spasm of its collective consciousness.

This system, correctly labeled "the prison-industrial complex," is the primary site of racial oppression today, and one of its most corrosive aspects is what many activists call the "school-to-jail pipeline."

The Jena 6 case revealed that pipeline in all its perverse glory: White students' punishment for hanging nooses remained within the context of school discipline, while the black students' cases were exported to the criminal justice system.



G.J. McCarthy (MCT)

With an estimated 120,000 people expected to be using the Metro every hour and multiple streets expected to be closed during the weekend of inauguration, experts say the best bet is to walk. On Inauguration Day, the subway system will run for two extra hours, until 2 a.m.

## Inauguration Traffic: Prepare for the Worst

BY ERIKA BOLSTAD  
McClatchy Newspaper (MCT)

All roads will lead to Washington on Inauguration Day, but many of them will be closed.

With packed trains, buses and planes, how will as many as 2 million people who are hoping to witness history crowd into a city whose subway system usually accommodates 718,000 a day?

The answer: very carefully. And mostly on foot.

"Doesn't it sound like an adventure?" said Dan Tangherlini, the Washington city administrator and deputy mayor, who's handling transportation planning for the event. "History is not convenient."

It's difficult to determine exactly how many people will be in town for President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration, and planners have backed away from the initial estimates of 4 million, saying that they now expect no more than 2 million.

The National Park Service no longer keeps track of such numbers, but the largest crowd ever in the city is widely thought to be that for the 1965 inauguration of President Lyndon Johnson. That drew an estimated 1.2 million people,

and it was before Washington had a subway system.

Most streets will be closed to cars south of K Street Northwest in downtown Washington, from the White House to the Capitol, making taxis an unrealistic means of transportation. People who live or work in the capital city also must get around, with the same restrictions faced by those attending the inaugural events.

"It's safe to say this is going to be a monumental challenge for the region and our transportation resources," said Steven Taubenkibel, a spokesman for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

"From a strictly practical standpoint, people should be well-prepared to walk," Line said. "And you should be prepared to stand for long periods."

The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies has 240,000 tickets to the swearing-in ceremony. The committee estimates that another 1 million or more people are planning to watch the inauguration on giant television screens on the National Mall between 4th Street Northwest, near the Capitol, and the Lincoln Memorial at the other end of the mall. Hundreds of thousands more are expected to at-

tend the inaugural parade down Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest to the White House.

About 1,600 tour buses already are registered for special parking areas. Tangherlini expects thousands more, and urges people who are arriving by private coaches to make sure that their bus drivers have registered with the city for designated parking places. Many who do so will get spots near RFK Stadium; from there travelers will have free shuttle service for the three-mile drive to the mall.

In the days leading up to the inauguration, the transit agency will establish special bus routes and lanes to bring people to and take them from the city for the events. Taubenkibel suggests checking the Metro Web site, at [wmata.com](http://wmata.com), to plan bus trips.

On Inauguration Day, the subway lines will operate with rush-hour frequency from 4 a.m. to 9 p.m., and will stay open for two extra hours, until 2 a.m. Wednesday. However, it's clear that the subway system won't be able to accommodate everyone, Taubenkibel said. Even operating at its peak, the Metro will be able to carry only 120,000 people an hour system wide. From the system's opening at 4 a.m. until noon on Inaugu-

Stay Tuned...

The Metro section is going to keep the Howard community abreast on everything Inaugural...

Want to be a part of this locally, nationally and globally historic moment?

Come to next week's budget meeting:  
Sunday @ 6 p.m.

Howard Plaza Towers West

## Metro Briefs

### NE Fires Kill Six On New Year's

As many celebrated the coming of 2009, New Year's Day proved to be deadly for the Wilson family. A fire at Oscar and Michelle Smith Wilson's house in the Brookland neighborhood of Northeast, D.C., claimed six lives. Although the homeowners survived, the fatal fire engulfed the couple's 11-year-old son Oscar Wilson III, their 10-year-old adopted son Joseph Wilson Jr. and Michelle's 72-year-old father Charles Smith. Also killed was the 22-year-old daughter of Oscar Wilson's close friend Tawana Gantt, along with her 23-year-old boyfriend Keith Nelson and 4-year-old daughter Kaniya Gantt. The definite cause of the fire is yet unknown. A Jan. 10 memorial service was held for the lost lives at the Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church, in which about 2,000 people were in attendance.

### Baltimore Mayor Dixon Faces Indictment

Baltimore's Mayor Sheila Dixon was indicted after charges of accepting and using illegal gift offers. The State Prosecutor's Office indicted Dixon with 12 counts of felony theft, perjury, fraud and misconduct while holding office. Allegedly, Dixon received gift cards as donations intended for needy families during the holiday season. Instead, she used the gift cards to purchase personal items from stores such as Best Buy and Target. Using over \$15,000 given to her by former boyfriend Ronald H. Lipscomb, a well-known developer, the mayor paid for trips, a fur coat and presents for members of her staff. Amid charges that could imprison her for up to 85 years, Dixon has stated that she will not step down from her position and will continue to fight the accusations.

### Six-Year-Old Drives To School

Eager to get to school on time, a six year old boy from Wicomico Church, Virginia decided to drive to school one morning. After missing his school bus, the first grader went back to his house, grabbed the keys to his mother's vehicle and drove to school. The boy reportedly gained his driving skills from playing video games. After driving for about 10 miles, the child driver slammed into a pole just a mile and a half from his elementary school. No fatalities occurred in the accident but both parents of the 6-year-old boy were arrested and he was subsequently placed in foster care.

### Maxing out D.C.'s subway?

Officials want the millions expected on Inauguration Day to use Washington's subway to get to the Mall, but it might be too crowded.

Per hour Metro can carry **120,000**

4 a.m. to noon on Inauguration Day, Metro can carry **960,000**

### Previous Inauguration Days

Passengers riding Metro	
2005	583,803
2001	601,839
1997	454,918
1993	811,257

Source: Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority Graphic: Judy Treible © 2009 MCT

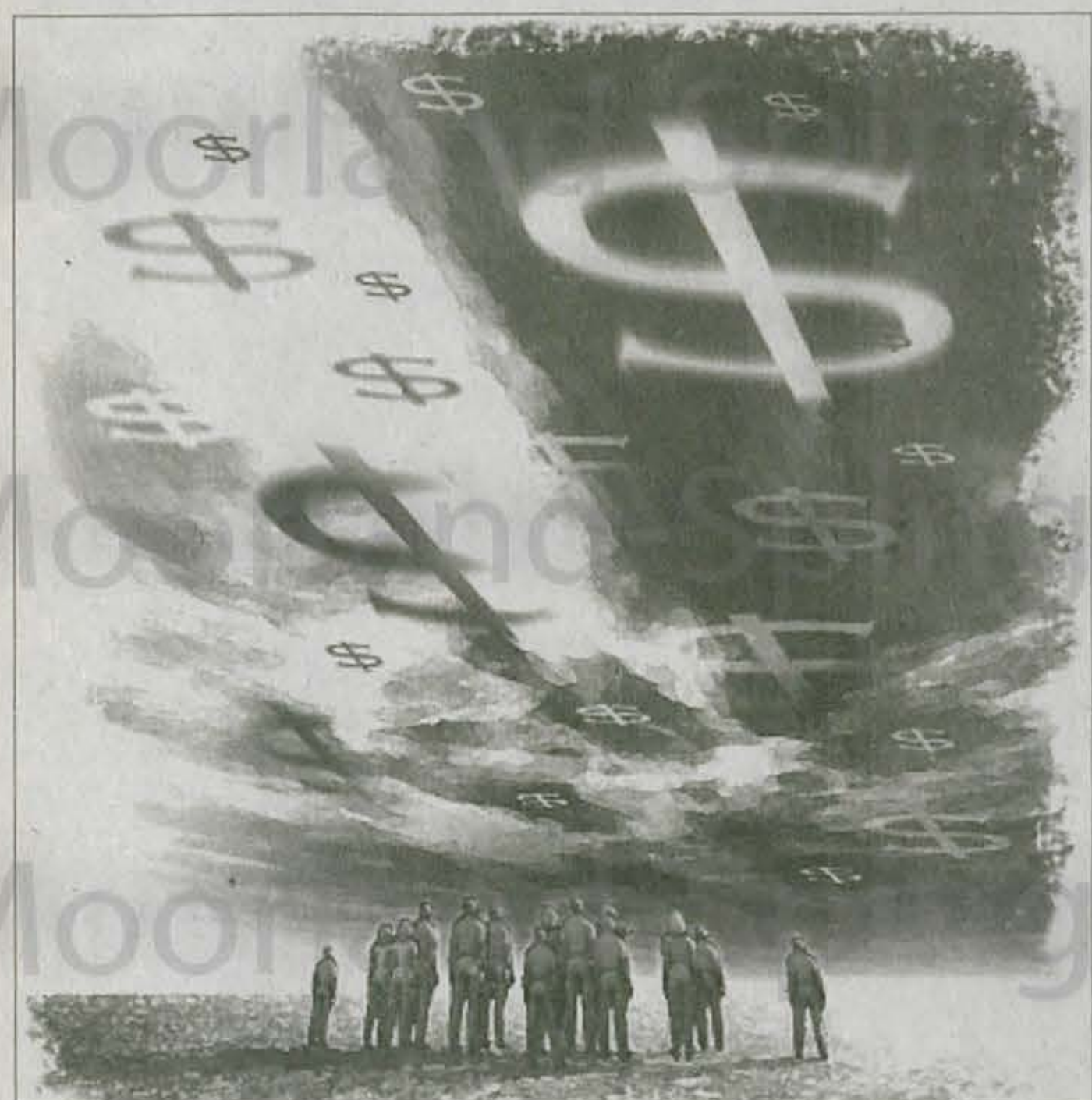






# You Say Recession, We Say Rapture

Religious, Economic Experts Speak on Worsening Economy, What's Happening



David Puckel - Chadotte Observer (MCT)  
Religious leaders say other signs of the "second-coming" include wars being waged and the world being run by one central government. They believe that the current economic state is outlined in the Bible.

BY TERRA JOHNSON  
Contributing Writer

Across the news, overuse of credit cards and loans have been the main culprits for the recent recession.

However, some church-goers are beginning to turn to a rather different source for answers — the Bible.

"Jesus is surely coming back some time sooner than we think," said Nan McFall, a church-goer and mother of one, as she watched the evening news discuss the recent bailout plan.

The recent economic crisis is forcing Americans to be mindful of their spending habits. With airline prices making it difficult to travel for even the most

frequent of flyers, and the mortgage crisis causing homeowners to be forced into foreclosure, it is difficult not to be affected by the recession.

In addition to being affected by the economic decline, economists and American consumers alike are searching for answers. Howard University Principles of Economics Professor Charles Betsey believes the crisis has a lot to do with the downfall of the mortgage companies.

"I think the reason is fairly complicated," Betsey said. "The financial crisis that occurred as a result of the mortgage market becoming overheated led to too little attention paid to the regulation of both investors' and the consumers' use of mortgage. The problem goes back to at least eight years ago with the housing market."

Economists were already predicting a recession for the United States as early as January 2008. David Wyss, chief economist with Standard & Poor's said, "The unemployment rate would climb to 7.5 percent by early 2009." It is now close to 7.2 percent.

Although economists such as Wyss predicted a short recession, Betsey believes America's economic problems will not be solved overnight. "It will take a long time to solve it because it didn't happen overnight," Betsey said. "For many

people, there will be a long period of financial hardship. It is an official recession."

Still, Pastor Jeffrey Johnson of Woodbury, N.J. has a different, more religious perspective on the problem.

"During the end times, both the of book of Daniel and Revelations state that when Satan comes upon the people, there will be an economic drought," Johnson said. "According to the Bible, those without Satan's mark will not be able purchase anything. As a result, even the richest merchants will not be able to sell their products."

Johnson believes the economic drought discussed in both Daniel and Revelations may be the same recession the country is going through now.

"We are going through a recession and there is a drought as far as economics is concerned and people do not have funds to stay afloat," he said.

Having only one week before taking office, President-elect Barack Obama has already formed his economic "dream team" to make quick and rational decisions early. Even President Bush began to formulate ideas with the bailout plan proposed by US Treasury Secretary, Henry Paulson.

As rational decisions are being made for the economy's future, Betsey still believes the problem will not stop until it has affected companies as well as the average American.

"For everyday people, even with jobs, they are not likely to see an increase in pay and more will lose jobs within the next year," he said. "I foresee a lot of real hardship for at least the next few years."

Similar to Betsey's own belief, Reverend Johnson believes consumers must be careful on how much credit they use and what they buy. Still, Johnson said, "We must prepare spiritually for what is ahead."

## BlackBerry Style Takes Users, Stores By Storm

BY GRACE SALVANT  
Contributing Writer

The line streamed down the block and wrapped around the corner by 7 a.m. at the Verizon Wireless store at the corner of 13th and F Streets, NW.

Armed with gloves, scarves and layers of clothing, people waited eagerly, hunched over to protect themselves from the sharp bite of the morning cold.

As 8:00 inched nearer, the line became anxious until the moment they had all been waiting for arrived. The doors opened and mayhem began.

"We sold out in the first 45 minutes," said Rene Manor, a data consultant for Verizon.

The introduction of the world's first-ever touchscreen BlackBerry, the BlackBerry Storm, has sparked the interest of many, and has consequently reached a level of widespread popularity.

The BlackBerry phone falls into the category of what is known as a "smart phone," a cellular device with Internet access, e-mails and extra bonus capabilities.

The release of the BlackBerry Storm sparks a new wave in technology, with features such as "click technology," which enables users to actually feel like they are touching a computer keyboard when typing on the face of the touch screen.

Because of the brand, sophomore political science major Dorian Blythers has very high expectations for the new phone.

"BlackBerry is a brand that people hold to a high esteem," Blythers said. "I expect this phone to do well."

Junior finance major Anthony Martin agrees.

"When you look at the history of BlackBerry, it has been out for a very long time," Martin said. "Now that they are moving toward a touchscreen-based phone, it will add longevity to their market."

Although the BlackBerry Storm has generated a major buzz, some question how well it will do compared to last year's release of the Apple iPhone, another touch screen phone similar to the Storm.

Senior political science major Marcus Ware does not think the iPhone

stands a chance against the ingenuity of the BlackBerry Storm.

"I think [the BlackBerry Storm] is a cutting edge phone. It is better than the iPhone," Ware said.

Ware has been a faithful BlackBerry customer since 2004 and said he has been extremely satisfied with the service, overall.

"The iPhone is okay, but the BlackBerry did a good job at mixing business with pleasure," he said.

According to Gartner, an independent research consultant, Apple's iPhone ranks third in the world as a smart phone, whereas Research In Motion (RIM), the creator of the BlackBerry Brand, ranks second.

According to Manor, the Storm is "more PC-savvy [than the iPhone]. It is actually like a personal computer."

Weighing in at 5.5 ounces, its sleek design is outfitted with special features such as a 3.2 megapixel camera and high resolution audio and visual capacities.

Senior political science and psychology double major Dominique Saint-Fort is eager to experience this new technology.

"When I saw the commercial, I was excited," she said. "It looks good."

However, she still has her doubts.

"I'm very reluctant, because what if your touch screen stops working? Touch screens have a tendency to do that," she said.

Saint-Fort said she is due for an upgrade, and admits that she will be looking into the possibility of the Storm being her next phone.

According to Research Capital, between 250,000 to 400,000 BlackBerry Storm units were sold the day it debuted.

Many consumers have labeled it the BlackBerry "thunder" because of

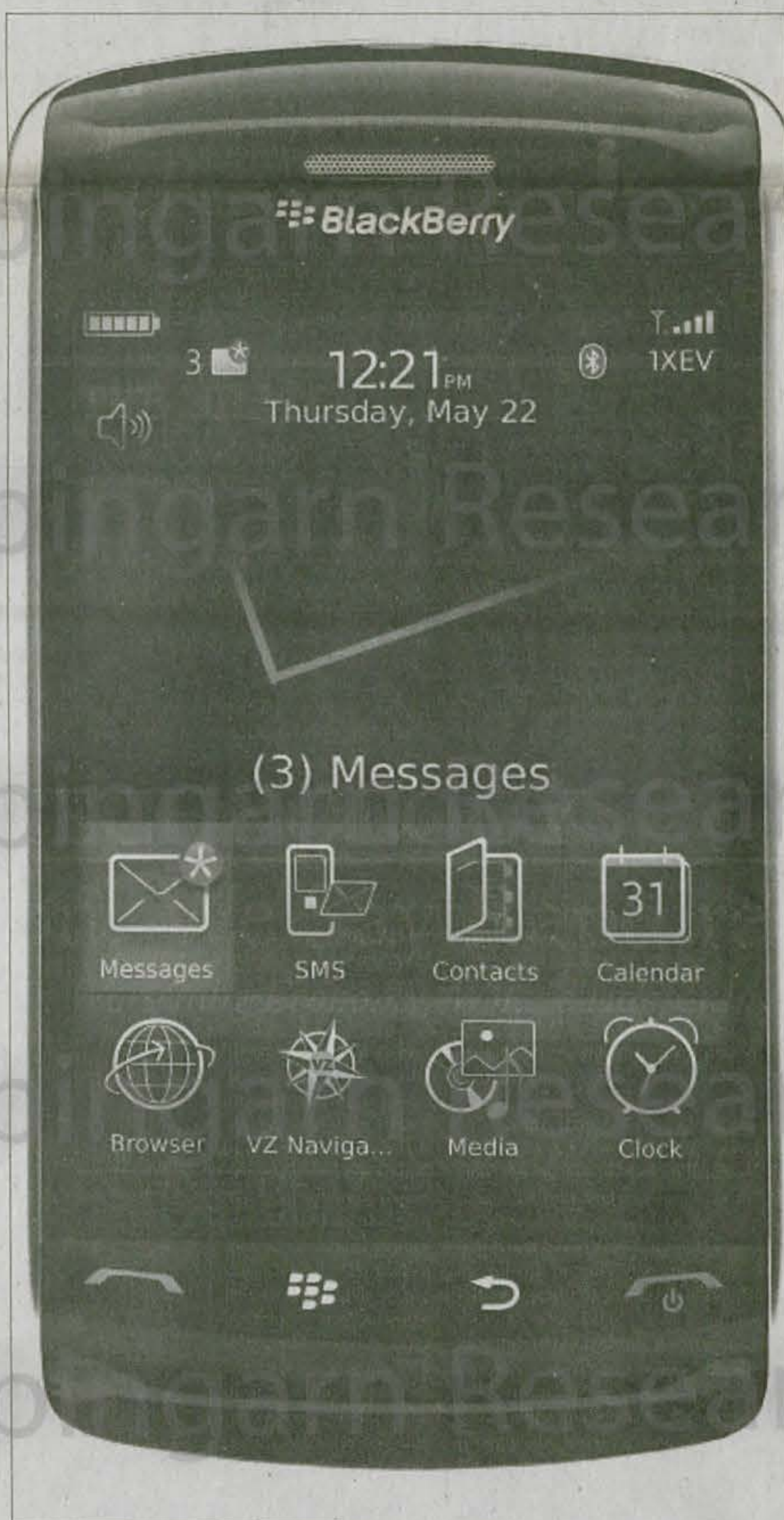


Photo Courtesy of Verizon Wireless (MCT)  
The new BlackBerry Storm went on sale after Thanksgiving for \$199 after a rebate. The new phone is intended to compete with the iPhone and other smart phones of the same caliber.

the impact it has had thus far. As with any new trend, some wonder if there will eventually be a downfall or a time when the product will be out of style. Ware doesn't believe this will happen.

"It's like a Nintendo," he said,

comparing it to the classic video game, "or like Coca-Cola. It will never be played out."



### When Nudie Films Need Funds

BY LINSEY ISAACS  
Asst. Campus Editor

Welcome to 2009.

A new year should mean a fresh start, a chance to reinvent one's self. But during this recession that is coming closer to no end, it would instead mean creating a new trend of milking Congress for all they're worth.

Why take chances with your limited funds when the country is in an economic downturn that is causing American pastimes like college football to cease? (Western Washington University recently announced that they cut their football program, which would save their university approximately \$450,000 a year.)

At least that's what adult entertainment industry moguls are saying. The industry, which some consider to be an American pastime as well, is in need of a \$5 billion bailout from Congress.

This is an industry that normally seems to prosper during economic hardships; apparently, Americans turn to porn in their time of need.

Hustler publisher Larry Flynt and Girls Gone Wild producer Joe Francis were among the first to write letters to Congress, stating that DVD sales have dropped 22 percent, and the nation is unhealthy because people are too depressed to be sexually active. According to a news release, "Americans can do without cars and such but they cannot do without sex."

Oh my goodness, gracious.

Yes, Francis. I admit that I'm one of the many hardworking taxpayers in this nation working two jobs this summer in order to save for...wait for it...an extensive porn collection. At this point in my life, who needs a car? I mean...you can't blame porn for global warming.

I honestly can't even get mad at these industries lobbying to get federal money as if they were waiting in a Welfare line. Although adult entertainment is slightly suffering, both Flynt and Francis admit that they aren't nearly in need of federal money as other industries. But, why take chances? You never know when adult entertainers will go on strike. We won't work for under \$2,000 a scene. Lol.

These two moguls are merely setting a precedent for the new year, while simultaneously poking fun at the extreme idea of bailouts, which are essentially keeping the rich people rich in the first place. I'm still unsure if this request is a publicity stunt or not, but I wouldn't be surprised if liquor, cigarette or another random companies start getting in on the action too.

First, a bailout of Wall Street crooks, followed by a bailout of the auto industry. I expected the retail industry to be next in line to cry poor, considering how their businesses are falling apart after the holiday season. (Even Wal-Mart and Macy's are feeling the pinch!) But people "need" adult entertainment, so the porn industry is suffering just as much as the next.

At least bailing them out would benefit the public in some way, right? While Wall Street businesses will continue spending our money frivolously, and the Big Three auto companies will continue making poor cars that will drive us to purchase foreign vehicles anyway, Americans will still want their adult entertainment.

It's right up there with food, air and shelter.

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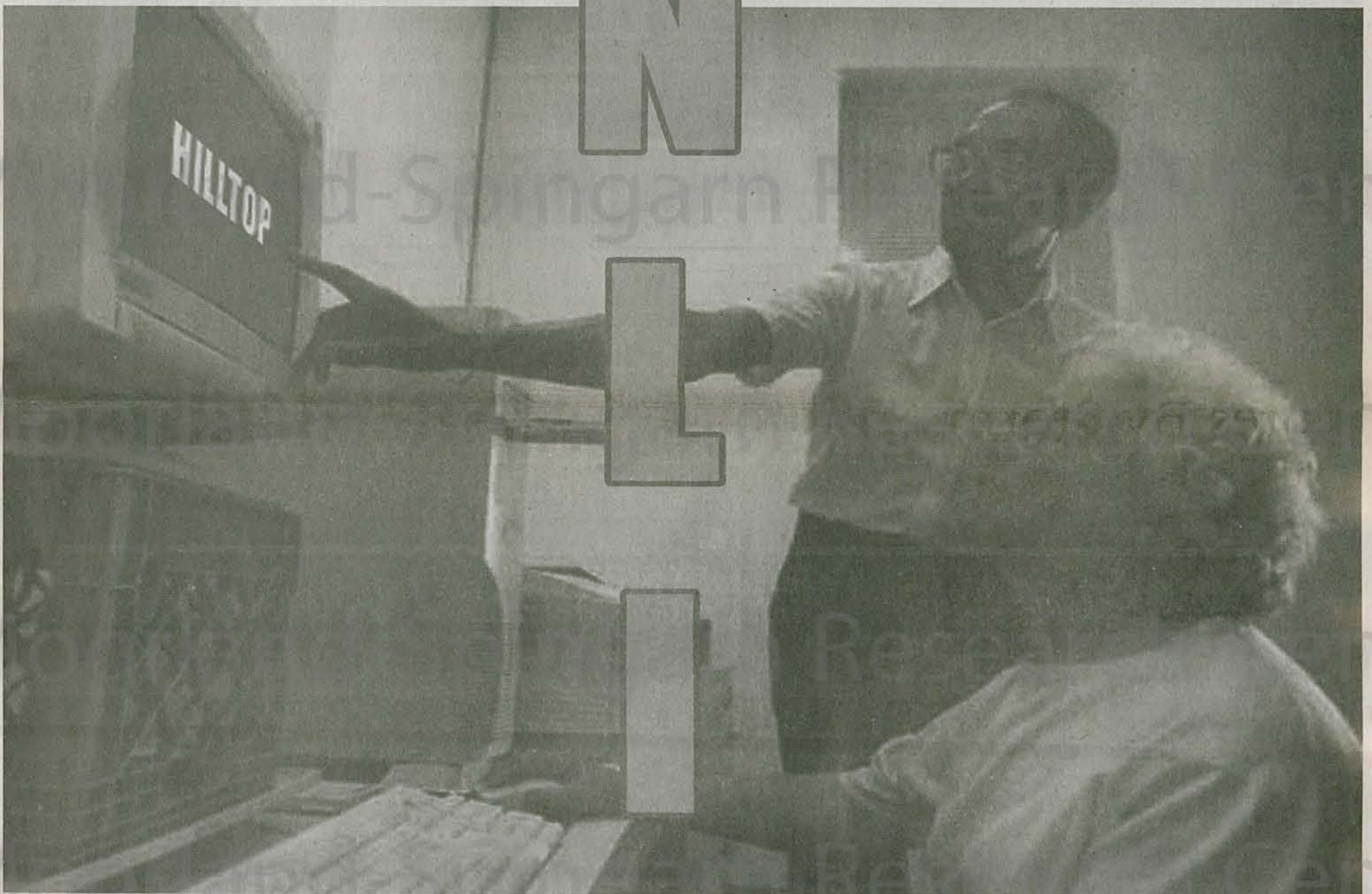
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## TRUE LIFE: Pants Optional

BY ALEESA MANN  
Life & Style Editor

It was like one of those really bad dreams. I was standing there on the Metro. Everything was fine, but people kept looking my way with scrunched up faces and curious expressions. I didn't think anything of it until I looked down and realized I didn't have on any pants.

Except this wasn't a dream. On a cold, rainy Saturday I found myself riding down the blue line with my winter coat buttoned and my pants m.i.a., but I wasn't alone. About 100 other passengers, like I, had woken up that morning and decided that it was a beautiful day to not wear pants. Yes, this was the 8th Annual No Pants Metro Ride.

So why do it? On an overcast day with the temperature hovering around 40 degrees, what would behoove someone to stand scantily clad on the D.C. metro, while unsuspecting individuals went about their normal routines.

The answer to that question: I don't know. It was probably best summed up by a pantswearing Metro rider who, after a round of questions and a lot of attitude, said to me and my pantsless friends, "To each his own, I guess."

Yes, to each his own. Sure, life is supposed to be lived within the confines of rules and regulations, some clearly stated while others merely implied. But every person has the choice to play by the rules or not. This, me and my comrades had decided, was a day to break them.

OK, so maybe this innocent gathering dangerously toyed with some decency laws (this was made apparent when an accompanying group of pantsless riders were detained by police and told to redress), but I couldn't turn down the opportunity to do something that seemed so ridiculous.

Sitting on the Metro, it was funny to hear other people make their own assumptions about the pantslessness around them. Without bothering to ask, they'd tell their friends, "Dude, it's like National Underwear Day," or "Oh yea, this is like a protest."

A protest against pants? Oh right, they clearly rank high on the list of potential killers.

Some people made rude comments, while others just stared. But as time passed, our allegiance of pantsless riders relaxed. We were in conversation, listening to our iPods, checking our watches for the time. Maybe it was just a dream.

It didn't dawn on me until a couple days later that something so pointless may actually have a point: You never know how strong minded you are until you're put into a position of vulnerability.

Not only were we physically outside of our pants, we were mentally outside of our comfort zones, exposed to the judgements of passersby.

Would I reach into my purse, throw on my jeans, and act like it never happened? Or would I sit it out, brandishing my fluorescent orange, mermaid printed boxer-shorts for all of DC Metro's finest to see? I chose the latter.

So, in the vaguest pretenses, my pantsless ride was an exercise in self-discovery.

No, I'm not saying going around without pants on is a necessary step to finding the inner you, but it's important to put yourself outside of your comfort zone. Challenge yourself to go against the grain, and take the criticism you may receive when you do. Afterward, you may find you've come through with a stronger sense of confidence and a better understanding of who you are. If not, just hope it was a really bad dream after all.

# Online Publication Puts HIV/AIDS On the Ledge

BY GRACE SALVANT  
Contributing Writer

All seemed normal when Jerryca Whitley made a routine trip to the gynecologist for her bi-yearly check up. As a freshman at Spelman College, she had never dreamed that on that day, she would be hit with the most shocking news of her life. She had contracted an STD.

It was stories like Whitley's that prompted Howard University alumnus Christopher Cathcart, in collaboration with The Black AIDS Institute, to launch LedgeMagazine.com, an online publication that directly addresses the issue of HIV, AIDS and other STD's affecting students in the HBCU community.

"I had always used protection," said Whitley, who contracted HPV (human papilloma virus). So when I was diagnosed, I was floored."

A study done by the American Social Health Association shows that two-thirds of all STDs occur in people 25 years of age or younger.

Additionally, according to Youth AIDS, 48 percent of all new HIV cases are African American.

Put these two together, and the result is a dangerous combination for young, sexually active African Americans who may not be aware of staggering statistics. Ledge intends to fix that.

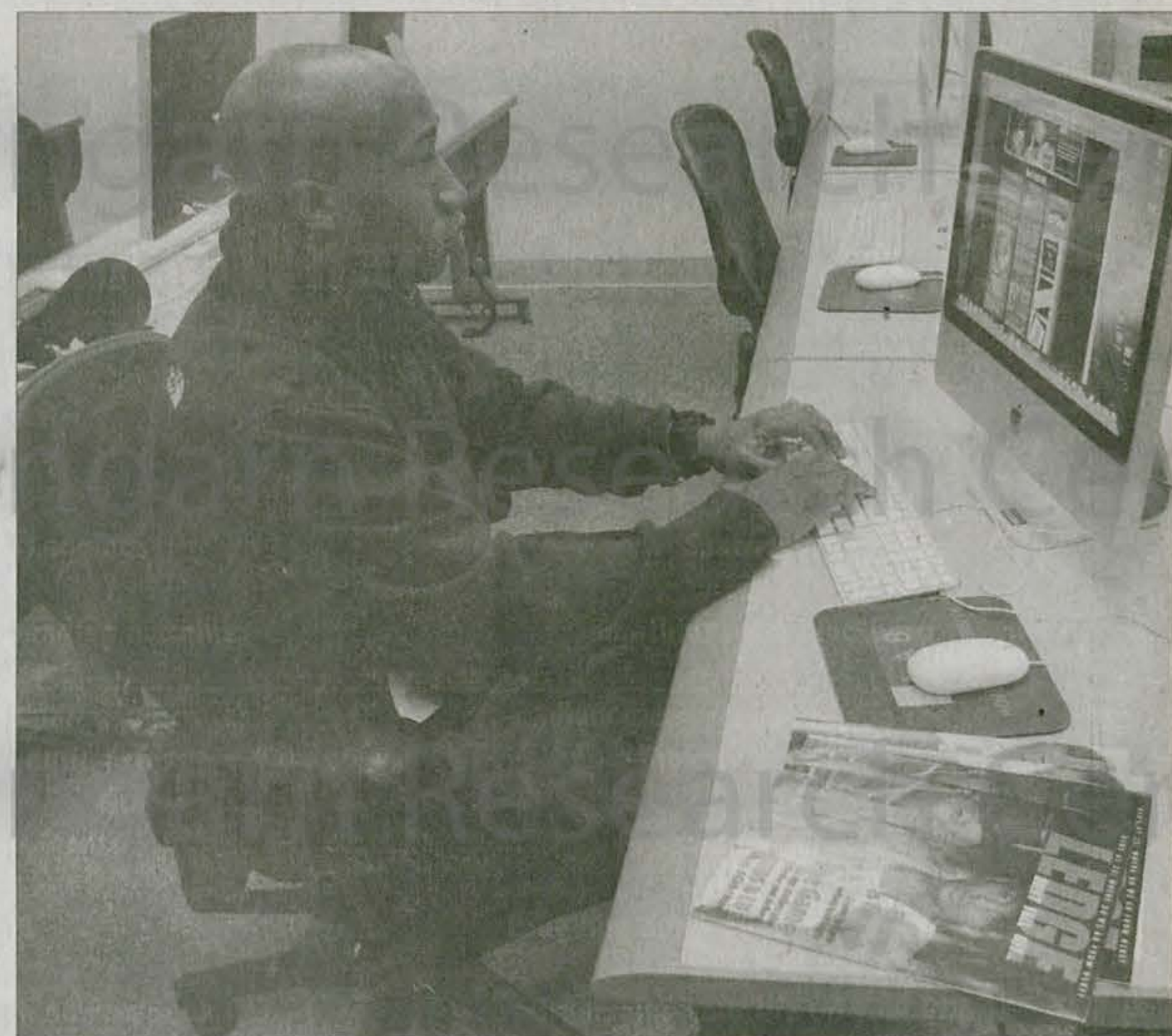
"While various groups and organizations often host programs aimed at reaching today's black college students, seldom has there been a vehicle that reflects the views, hopes, fears and ideas young people themselves have about HIV/AIDS," Cathcart said. "Ledge will help fill that void."

Since its inception in 2004, Ledge Magazine has been circulated in print once a semester on as many as 80 HBCU campuses, different churches and community centers throughout the nation. The follow-up hard copy was printed in 2006, and now they are gearing up for a third edition set to hit campuses in the spring of 2009. This time, it is accompanied by a totally revamped Web site that includes updated statistics, stories, including Jerryca Whitley's, music and many other features.

Tiffany Smith, a junior architecture major, thinks that the creation of Ledge Magazine was a necessity.

"I personally believe that it absolutely critical, that we have something like this to address the issues of HIV and AIDS in the black community," she said.

Sophomore biology major Jibrielle



Freddie Allen, along with Christopher Cathcart, both recent graduates of Howard University, operate LedgeMagazine.com. The online magazine provides weekly updates on HIV/AIDS-related information, as well as information on other STDs in the black community.

Polite agrees. "I think it is a good idea," she said. "Black people have a tendency to keep things like this a secret. People are infecting other people because it's being kept a secret."

Although students feel like it is a great initiative, some have their doubts about just how effective it actually will be.

"People are just going to keep doing what they want to do," said junior sociology major Naomi Riley. Doctors' offices have many pamphlets on STDs and no one takes the time to really read them."

Rhea Shannon, a junior television production major, shares a similar sentiment. "[The Web site] may open some people's eyes, but people understand what they are doing. If you have sex without a condom, you know the consequences."

All of the contributing writers for

the magazine are students that hail from different HBCUs including North Carolina A&T, Hampton University and Howard University.

"The site really lets us give our writers the room to cover different aspects of the HIV/AIDS issue, as well as related topics," said Freddie Allen, Editor-in-chief of Ledge Magazine. "And with the ability to add video and audio components, the online version will be much more interactive and appealing to today's students."

Through its tactics, Ledge Magazine is seemingly finding new ways to disseminate old information.

Darelle Washington, junior television production major believes that it is innovative, and will be effective.

"It is a creative way to tackle an epidemic that has been destroying our

communities, and because it is online, it is a plus," Washington said.

He said the fact that the magazine content is written by college students may provide an incentive for other students to read the magazine as well.

Ledge Magazine creators are extremely hopeful that the emergence of the online site will increase student participation and cooperation when it comes to the health of the black community.

"I think it will have a huge impact on college students," Polite said. "They will be able to see that STDs are real, and it can happen to them too."

## What's In & What's Out for 2009

### OUT

Gold Lamé Leggings

Drinks from the vending machine

Staring at chipped paint and cracks in the ceiling during class

New York Giants

LOL

Putting your life on FaceBook

Songs featuring T-Pain

Analogue TV

Fashionistas

Cadillac Records

Yes We Can

### IN

Santogold

Smoothies from Blackburn

Renovated classrooms in the Biology Building

Philadelphia Eagles

Laughing out loud with your friends

Organizing your life on your PDA

Songs featuring Kid Cudi

Digital TV

Recessionistas

Notorious

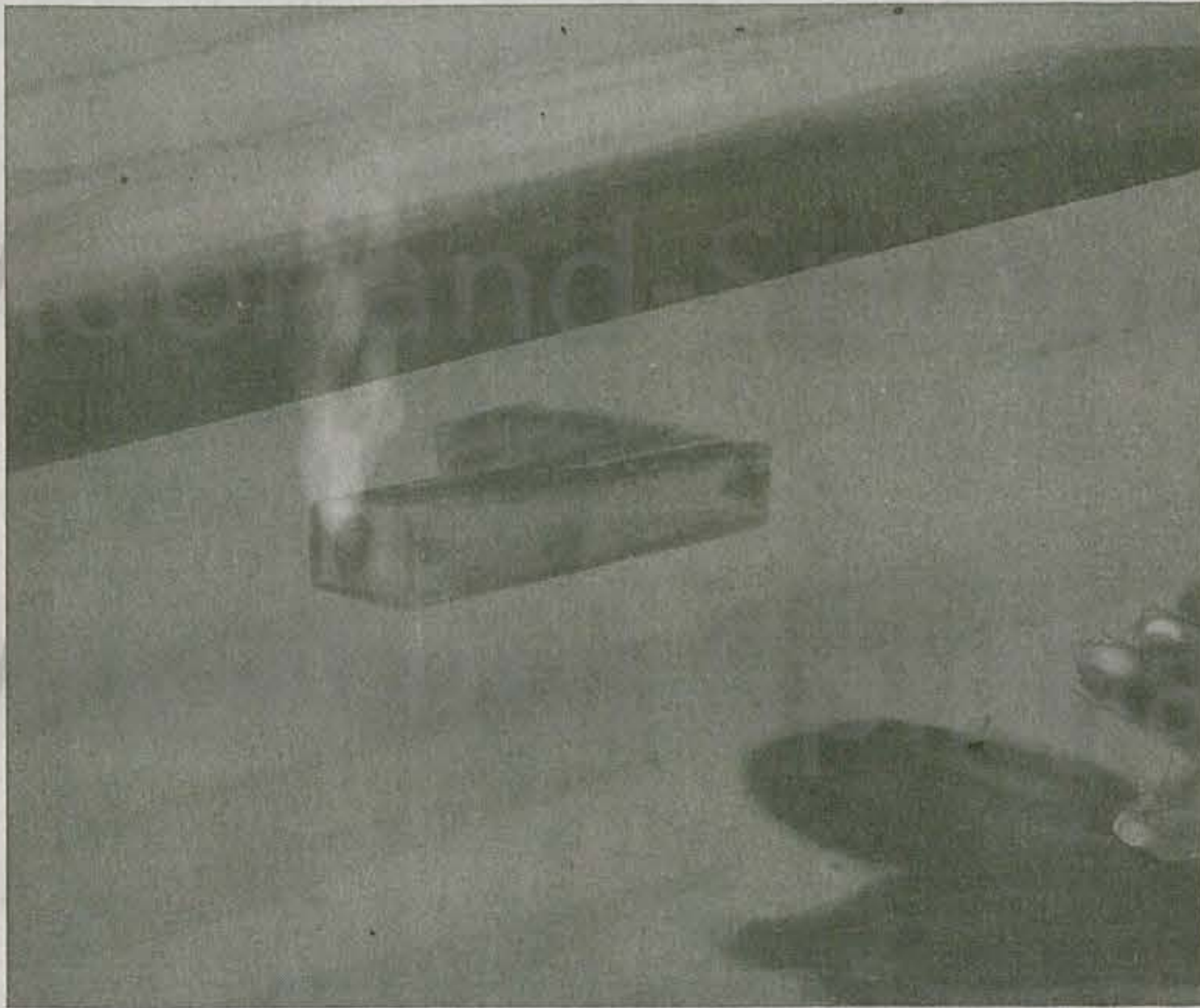
Yes We Did



Images Courtesy of www.mdcampus.com

- compiled by Hilltop staff





Charles Metz III - Cartoonist

## Officers Should be Held Accountable for Brutality

For many young people living in a big city, New Year's Eve is a time to celebrate with friends and family well into the night. But this holiday is also the most dangerous, due to drunk driving and other unruly behavior that takes place amid celebration.

For 27-year-old Oscar Grant, the early morning hours of Jan. 1, 2009 did not call for celebration. Grant, who was being detained by the Bay Area Rapid Transit police in California, was fatally shot after an officer pulled out a gun and shot Grant in the back.

At the time of the shooting, Grant was face down and handcuffed, posing no threat to the officer who shot him or anyone else who was present.

The case of Oscar Grant is not the first and will not be the last. Sadly, it has become a pattern for police officers who harm or even kill citizens — who hap-

pen to be black men — to get off without any true punishment. This vicious cycle is not OK and it is the duty of our justice system to enforce punishment suitable to the crime.

**Our View:**  
*Police officers should be held accountable for their actions regardless of their status.*

In 1988, gangster rap group N.W.A released "Straight Outta Compton" which included an anthem that opened mainstream America's eyes to the police brutality and racial profiling.

Three years later, the infamous beating of Rodney King sparked the deadly Los Angeles riots of 1991. In 2006, Sean Bell was fatally shot 50 times, also by the police. Today, over 20 years after N.W.A's cultural and lyrical

protest was released, police brutality continues.

The purpose of having police is to enforce the civil laws that have been set in place in order for society to function peacefully.

However, enforcers of the law have developed a reputation for abusing power and racially profiling black men.

The worse part about this is that their superiors never inflict proper punishment. Either the officer resigns or the case gets dismissed. When will enough be enough be enough? How many more children will have to see their fathers buried? Is a video of the incident not enough?

It is time for incidents like these to not just become sensations that people forget. Riots, protests and civil disobedience can only do so much. It is time for police officers and other government officials who abuse their power and kill their constituents to be held accountable.

## Perspective A Necessary Change

For the past two weeks, Israel has engaged in an intensive campaign of bombing the densely populated Gaza strip, and recently employed thousands of ground troops into the area.

In only a short, two-week span, over 800 Palestinians have been killed and thousands more have been wounded, by the bombing from American-made F16 and the thousands of troops that have gone into Gaza. The Israeli have had 13 deaths, three of which were caused by rocket fire into Israel.

Israel has repeatedly claimed that their offensive in Gaza is a matter of self-defense against the mortar shell rockets fired that was being launched into southern Israel. This is not a claim that is easily taken seriously by many who are aware of the history of Israeli policy towards the Palestinians, and for those who have followed the recent unraveling of the all-out offensive on Gaza.

In fact, many who have only been introduced to the conflict within the recent weeks and are unaware of facts about the conflict — such as Israel's 38-year occupation of Gaza that ended in 2005 — may still be able to see past

this constant claim of self-defense.

Both the sheer number of Palestinian deaths, the vastly superior weapons and technology and military might of Israel seem to make clear that this cannot be about self defense.

In fact, a recent CNN report confirmed that Israel was the first to break the cease fire by killing six Hamas "militants" in early November, as well as trying to close down the crossing out of Gaza, which only created more humanity crises then in Gaza.

It seems to me that there is a variety of reasons for the recent massacre of Gaza, but one that stands out is to pressure the soon-to-be president Barack Obama to continue the long-standing tradition of the United States' unconditional support for Israel.

Even in the midst of these blatant atrocities, the U.S. Congress voted to support a resolution "recognizing Israel's right to defend itself against Gaza" 390 votes to five, despite the UN resolution passed the previous day that called for an immediate cease of fire.

Yes, this long-standing tradition of absolute American support has resulted in billions of our tax

money going to support this massacre and many others like it over the past 60 years of Israel existence.

It seems unlikely that Obama's message of change will extend as far as the Middle East foreign policy, and I will be deeply saddened if the day comes when Obama says that Israel has the right to "self-defense," or, as history has shown us, the right to continue the atrocities against the Palestinian people.

I fear that this change will not come, but as students of Howard University, it is our job to call to task the man that so many of us helped to get elected.

It is imperative for us to make sure Obama hears our voices, that remind him that "change" extends further than an ideological slogan, but includes a real change in unjust policies — the type of policy that has contributed to the great suffering of the Palestinian people.

- Amato Nocera

Sophomore, philosophy & African-American studies major

## Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

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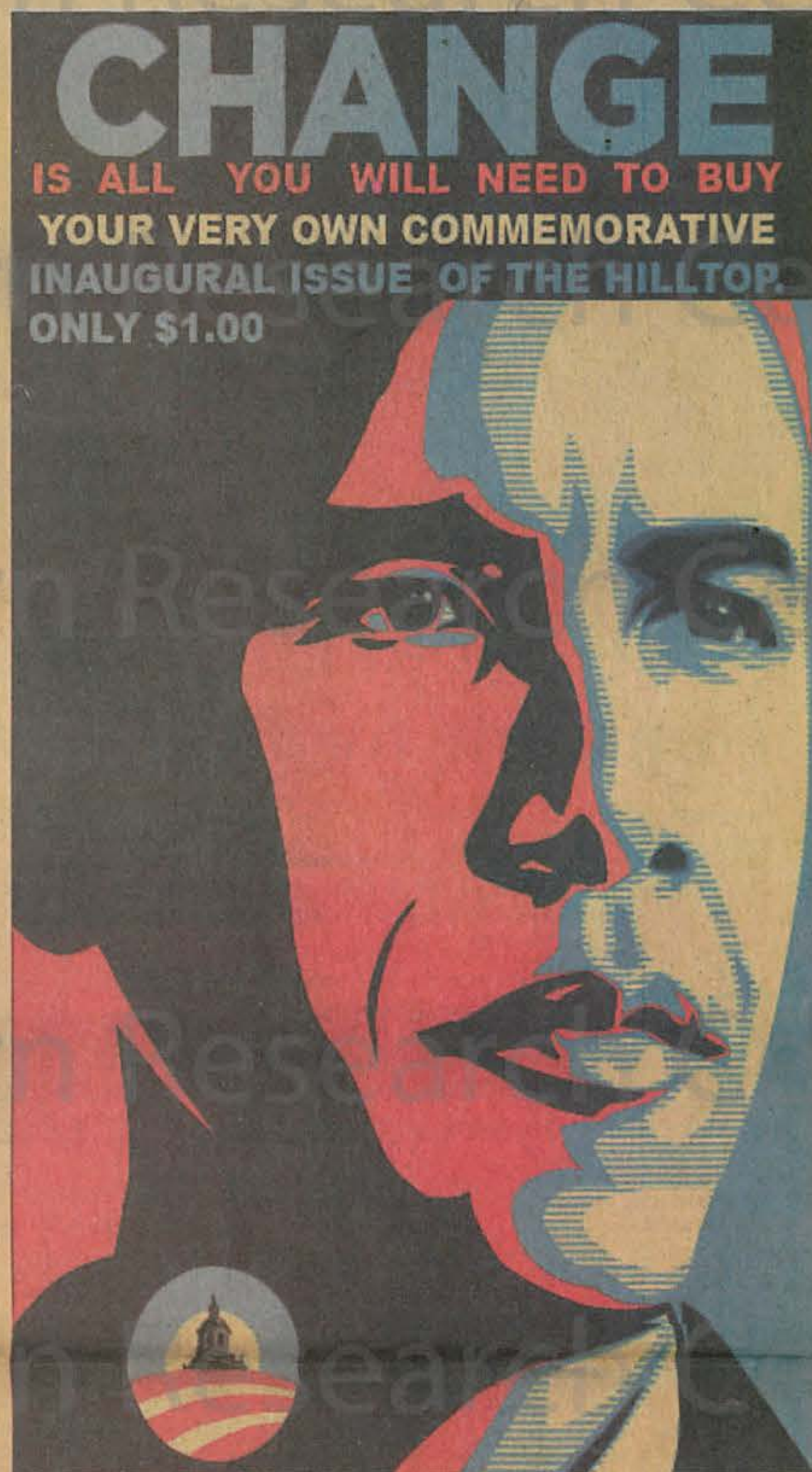
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