

Howard University

Digital Howard @ Howard University

The Hilltop: 2000 - 2010

The Hilltop Digital Archive

2-2-2009

The Hilltop 2-2-2009

Hilltop Staff

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

Recommended Citation

Staff, Hilltop, "The Hilltop 2-2-2009" (2009). *The Hilltop: 2000 - 2010*. 566.
https://dh.howard.edu/hilltop_0010/566

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**46**
31

Tomorrow:

**31**
23Established
1924

THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO. 82

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Monday, February 2, 2009

Monday's Notebook**CAMPUS****DARYL HARRIS, PH.D., HAS BEEN NAMED CHAIRMAN OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT. READ ABOUT HIS GOALS.****NATION & WORLD****LEARN ABOUT THE COMPANY THAT HAS BEEN COMPARED TO THE "NETFLIX" OF TEXTBOOK RENTAL.****SPORTS****READ TO SEE HOW HIP-HOP AND THE WORLD OF SPORTS CONSTANTLY INTERTWINE WITH ONE ANOTHER.**

PAGE 2

PAGE 3

PAGE 4

Search for Student Affairs Replacement is On

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

A nationwide search for a vice president to replace Franklin D. Chambers, Ph.D., who vacated his position in the Office of Student Affairs as a vice provost in December 2008, has begun.

Although the reason for the position change has not been revealed, the difference in the two titles is that a vice provost reports to the provost, whereas a

vice president reports directly to the president of Howard.

To manage the task of appointing an administrator who will report directly to him, President Sidney Ribeau has summoned Dean Bernard Richardson of the Office of Religious Life; Gregory Carr, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Afro-American Studies; Dione Duckett, Ph.D., associate dean of the law school; Jerome Hunt, Graduate Student Association coordinator; Steven Johnson, Ph.D., director of Cramton Auditorium;

Victoria Kirby, undergraduate trustee; and Nicholas Owen, Howard University Student Association executive president.

"Officially, we are a screening committee," Richardson said. "Our task is to recommend the qualifications, experience and personal characteristics of a candidate."

The actual details of the search are confidential as of now.

Hunt said he is basically looking for someone with experience who has the ability to operate in a student-sensitive

environment.

He wants to see the new vice president create an environment that includes the graduate populations, the gay population and other minority groups represented on campus.

In terms of qualifications, Richardson said he is looking for a candidate who understands the importance of a thriving and content student population at Howard.

"The person who is elected must understand how significant this role is,"

Richardson said. "I want this vice president to build upon what has already been done in the past."

According to Richardson, the president has made the appointment of this role a high priority and the search is projected to conclude by the end of this semester.

If not, Ribeau will personally decide who will replace the graduating seniors on the committee.



Joe Romkus Jr. - Miami Herald (MCT)

The Pittsburgh Steelers won Super Bowl XLIII against the Arizona Cardinals 26-23. Their coach, Mike Tomlin, is the youngest to win.

Steelers Steal Victory from Cards

BY TERRICKA JOHNSON
Editorial Assistant

Viewing parties for the highly anticipated Super Bowl XLIII game were held in various residence halls and venues across Howard's campus. Ultimately, Steelers fans left with much excitement as the team stole the win from the Arizona Cardinals, 26-23.

The viewing party held in the game room of the Blackburn Student Center provided refreshments and music courtesy of DJ Premonition to the students who attended.

Alyssa McLendon, a freshman broadcast journalism major from Atlanta, Ga. was a Cardinals supporter for the night.

"I am going for Arizona,"

McLendon said. "I like going with the underdogs because you never know what to expect from them."

This year's competition marked the first time the Cardinals, led by Coach Ken Whisenhunt, had participated in the Super Bowl festivities since 1947.

Steelers Offensive Linebacker James Harrison made an amazing play on the last drive of the half, intercepting a pass from quarterback Kurt Warner, and scoring a touchdown after completing a 100-yard dash for the end zone.

At the end of the first half, the Cardinals trailed the 2005 NFL champion Pittsburgh Steelers with a score of 17-7.

Michael Roy, a freshman politi-

cal science major from Philadelphia, found himself rooting for the Steelers.

"I am definitely going for Pittsburgh because they are from the great state of Pennsylvania", Roy said.

The Cardinals gave up another turnover courtesy of Warner again via a fumble with a recovery from Harrison once again.

After a 64-yard pass from Warner to wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald for a touchdown, the Cardinals surpassed their opponent for the first time during the game.

The Cardinals ended the game with a fumble from Warner with a recovery from Brett Keisel of the Steelers, making the Steelers the first team in NFL history to win six NFL championships.

Republicans Seat Black Chairman

BY OMARI EVANS
Staff Writer

The Republican National Committee (RNC) elected its first black chairman, Michael Steele, on Friday in what would appear to some students as an attempt to steal President Obama's thunder.

With 91 votes, the former Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, won the chairmanship against Katon Dawson, who had 77 votes. Before Dawson entered, he withdrew from a whites-only Country Club after it became a concern from Republicans who thought it greatly contrasted the ideals of a nation that just elected its first non-white president.

"It is with a great deal of humility and a sense of service," Steele said during his acceptance speech, "that I accept and appreciate and thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as the next chairman of our very proud, very strong, and our very, very hard-working Republican National Committee."

Steele is a D.C. native and a Georgetown Law School class of '91 alumnus.

After working in the private sector with several law firms, Steele decided to work his way up the political ladder in Maryland. During the 2004 Republican National Convention, Steele gave the counterpoint to President Obama's keynote address, which pushed him into the national spotlight.

"I don't think it's a coincidence that the Republican Party selected an African American to be its chairman in 2009," said political science professor Wilmer Leon, Ph.D., "but I do not know to what degree race played in their selection."

Leon also said if race was a considerable factor in selecting Steele, he finds it to be both ironic and a contradiction that a party against affirmative action in the last 30 years would use race as a factor in selecting him.

"This has taken written all over it," said Amelia Reid, a sophomore political science major. "This is a discrete attempt by the Republican Party for the black/Latino vote."

Reid went on to say that the GOP fails to realize that Obama's election was more than his skin color. According to Reid, Obama relates to Americans of all walks of life and minorities won't "see every articulate African American and side with Republicans."

Coversely, the Howard University College Republicans (HUCR) look at Steele's reign as RNC chair optimistically and with enthusiasm.

"He's come from an urban community and he's able to express his views as well as the obstacles of being an African-American man," said Skyla Johnson, Executive Treasurer of the HUCR. "Being an African-American — a Republican African-American especially, — has allowed Steele to see both sides of the policy spectrum and will give him the edge necessary to reform the party."

Cameron Lewis, president of the HUCR, said Steele is a very moderate politician, especially as a Republican.

Lewis said in order for the Republican Party to regain a majority in Congress and elect more politicians in areas of government, "They're going to have to project a more moderate message. I believe Mr. Steele will be effective in that."

Leon said Steele is a dishonest moderate Republican, on the basis of Steele's campaign during his bid for the Senate in 2006.

According to the *Washington Post*, Steele's campaign hired homeless people from out of state to distribute flyers which stated that Steele was endorsed by prominent Democrats.

"In listening to his acceptance speech, he talked about 'it's time for something completely different,' but he gave no real specifics about what that really means," Leon said. "So he talks about bringing the party to every corner, boardroom, neighbor and community, but if you're bringing the same party with no substantive differences, it's just old wine and new bottles."

Leon said the problem is something they haven't seemed to have gotten a grip of, and that is that it's not about the face, but about the policy.

Show Brings the Windy City to HU

BY ASHLEY JOHNSON-ALFORD
Staff Writer

Light projections of the Chicago skyline on the walls of the auditorium and a DJ from the Chicago area were the first things that welcomed the crowd. Host Lakendra Smith, a junior public relations major, introduced herself and the first act.

The curtains opened to reveal the Chicago People's Union (CPU) first skit, a play off of R. Kelly's "I Believe I Can Fly" entitled "I Believe in the Chi," followed by a performance by rapper Glen Jones "G-Money."

"His music was okay," said Jamie Williams, a freshman broadcast journalism major, "but if he would've delivered it better, we would've enjoyed his performance more."

Smith kept the crowd in an uproar with jokes, comments and music

before presenting the performers. "She was very energetic and kept the momentum of the show going," said Jamee Ham, a freshman biology major.

The CPU Dance Team was the first dance performance, with bright colors and fast music. The squad did the infamous Chicago "juke" and "bob" and had the crowd's full attention.

They also listened to the spoken word and the singers, even singing "background" for Ashaya Robinson who performed Alicia Keys' "Diary" and finished sentences for poet Nnamdi Anozie while he spoke wisdom about the history he wants our generation to be enlightened with.

Josh Stapleton and Jacques Kindle both charmed the crowd with their jokes about Howard guys and girls, as well as Campus Police.

After the crowd had their own dance party, Howard's own dance team

Rampage performed a jazzy routine with sparkling outfits and high energy. "They were good and extremely energetic, but their show was really long," Ham said.

"Boyz Of Poison" performed their racy, fast-paced act that had all the females at full attention. With acrobatics, grinding and animation, the auditorium was in an uproar over the eight boys who taunted and teased the crowd.

"They were very synchronized in their motions," Ham said. "You can tell they practiced really hard." They ultimately won first place in the Talent Show and the \$300 cash prize.

The crowd waited anxiously for the headliner, Chicago R&B Singer Jeremih, to perform his hit single "Birthday Sex." He finished the show out energized, leaving the ladies satisfied as they sang along below the stage.



Lloyd Fox - Baltimore Sun (MCT)

Michael Steele has been appointed chairman of the Republican National Committee. He is the first African American to do this.



The School of Education celebrated the opening of a new central meeting place for the student council on Friday in Miner Hall. Council members held a ribbon-cutting ceremony, with cake and refreshments, in commemoration of one of the most important promises of their campaign being fulfilled.

School of Education Council Starts Fresh, Opens New Office

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

Blue, peach, green and brown may be the colors brightening the atmosphere of the brand new School of Education Student Council Office, but only one color stood out as the council members were tickled pink with the idea of a new workplace to call their own.

On Friday, students — many from the School of Education — gathered together to watch the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the council office located in Miner Hall.

"I feel speechless," said Council President Keisha Blount. "It's hard to explain because this is a huge deal for us."

With a sigh of relief, Council Vice President Jenelle Diljohn said one of the main concerns plaguing the 2007 to 2008 council was the lack of a central meeting location.

"It's an accomplishment,"

Diljohn said. "We have definitely overcome a lot of obstacles."

Blount said this initiative is the most important promise of their campaign. Now that it is fulfilled, its completion will serve as the catalyst allowing them to keep their other platform promises.

"This is something they have worked so hard for," said Andrew Jones, President of the School of Communications Student Council as he celebrated with his colleagues.

The hard work paid off as mouths were held agape marveling the new office, complete with a new sofa, armchair, two tables, eight high-chairs, a desk and a file cabinet.

"It's beautiful," said Esther Ekpins, a sophomore biology major. "I wish the biology department had something half as beautiful as this."

While students and administrators cut the cake and continued their celebration, Blount said, "Welcome to our home, our safe haven."



The School of Education Student Council office was opened in Miner Hall this weekend. With this initiative complete, the council hopes to fulfill other duties.

A 'New' Familiar Face Takes Lead

Daryl Harris will serve as the new chair of political science department

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON
Staff Writer

After five years of serving as a political science professor, Daryl Harris, Ph.D., has been appointed as chairman of the department.

The previous chair, Lorenzo Morris, Ph.D., is on a sabbatical and has traveled to a university in Paris, France for a fellowship through the Fulbright Program.

"I really do think this, as small as it might sound, but my general disposition will be good for the department," Harris said. "I bring freshness, an open-minded, democratic mindset, and I am willing to listen and consider the perspective of others."

According to Harris, when Morris returns to the university, he will not be returning as chair of the department of political science because his term has ended.

Prior to his sabbatical, Morris did tell *The Hilltop* he would not necessarily be returning as depart-

ment chair, but he would return to the university.

Morris currently holds the spot of interim chair.

"Anytime you are in an organization, you should aspire to be at the top; so yes, I did want to be at the top," Harris said. "But, I did not mean that in a selfish way at all."

Harris plans to be more of an instrument in improving the department of political science than anything else.

Harris said he wants to create a group effort to be instrumental by creating an environment where the faculty is enthusiastic and visible to the public.

He also wants to invigorate the department by implementing conferences and symposiums so that students can get more of an idea in terms of what they do.

"This is not just a department objective, but an objective of the college," Harris said.

Sophomore political science major Shemise Miller said one of

the main problems in the department is that the academic advisors do not advise students.

"One of my priorities is to get a handle on this challenge and get all of the faculty to get a commitment to advising," Harris said. "Students have a right to expect proper advising."

Inspiring teachers and academic advisors in graduate school encouraged Harris, who originally wanted to be a lawyer or minister, to be in the position that he is today.

Harris said he wants to give that same inspiration to students at Howard University.

"I have had a positive effect on a number of students in the university — not just in the classroom, but in the open," Harris said. "I have an open door policy; I am accessible and I plan to keep it this way as I serve as chair."

He said solving the issue with advising is not a problem he can fix overnight, but by the next fall semester, it should be improved.

Chapel Recap



Bree Gant - Contributing Photographer

Dr. Rev. Renita J. Weems delivered a message to Sunday's worshippers with the theme of "a dispute arose among us."

BY TIFFANY BRIGGS
Contributing Writer

Sunday's service commenced with the routine order of praise, initiated with the lighting of the unity candle followed by the Psalter reading and a selection by the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel Choir.

The quote of the week was taken from George Washington Carver, which stated, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind him distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it."

This first Sunday of the month marked the day for Holy Communion. Holy Communion is the consuming of bread and wine in symbolization of the blood and body of Jesus Christ and the remission of sins.

Praise echoed through in Cramton Auditorium from the congregation of Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel. Heads and hands were lifted in worship and toes tapped the floor along with the organist as the choir sang upbeat numbers.

The Reverend Dr. Renita J. Weems delivered the sermon to the congregation.

Weems is a biblical scholar, writer, ordained minister, public speaker and full-time blogger. Her scholarly insights into modern faith, biblical texts and the role of spirituality in everyday lives makes her a much sought-after writer and speaker.

Weems is the author of several highly praised books on women's spirituality and wholeness. She earned her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College in Wellesley, Mass. and her master's and doctoral degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ.

Graduating in 1989 from Princeton made her the first African-American woman to earn a Ph.D. in Old Testament.

Weems is particularly proud of her blog, "Something-within.com," which permits her to expand fervently and expressively about a wide range of issues having to do with faith, popular culture, values and women's spirituality and other topics of interest.

She entered the pulpit asking the congregation to be "grateful in worship."

Using scriptures from Luke, Chapter 22, Verses 24-32 in order, Weems focused on the argument that occurred between the disciples. For emphasis, the minister repeated a phrase mentioned in the passage, "a dispute arose among them."

She pointed to the change that we are currently experiencing, referring to President Barack Obama, saying "[he] did not come without a battle, and did not come without conflict, and did not come without dispute."

Weems said, "We are now considerate of each other, treating each other like we are all the same, but a few months ago, a dispute arose among us."

She said, "World was divided between us and them a few months ago, because a dispute arose among us."

Weems said, "We are a nation of tribes," speaking of the numerous amounts of groups that divide society such as black vs. white, Democrats vs. Republicans and short hair vs. long hair.

According to Weems, the nation is being broken into tribes in order to compare how America points the finger at other countries such as Darfur because of the racial cleansing and genocide that are taking place there.

Weems said we should be pointing the finger at ourselves as well because we separate ourselves from one another similar to what they are doing, we just haven't taken it to the extremes that they have as of yet.

Weems focused on us not being able to judge someone else's sins by saying, "I have no heaven to keep anybody out of nor hell to send anybody to."

She said, "We come to church because we need God's spirit to remind us who we are and who we are not."

Weems concluded her sermon with a prayer that touched on controversial topics while bringing comical relief simultaneously.

Service concluded with the congregation forming lines around the auditorium to take part in Holy Communion.

The Hilltop is looking for Writers and Photographers!

Stop by the office this Sunday at 4 pm for Photo Assignments

Budget Meetings are at 6pm

West Towers, P-Level

See you there!

House Party



BY EDWARD WILLIAMS
Contributing Columnist

A few blocks down the road, it became very apparent that the Inauguration parties were over and so were our congressional representatives' fantasies of bipartisanship.

Last week, President Obama spent a significant portion of his week courting House and Senate Republicans around his \$825 Billion 'Emergency Stimulus Package.'

However, beyond the eloquent speeches, stagecraft and half-smiles, the reality that a powerless political party was preparing to make a statement to the nation and our new president seemed unexpected.

Of course, I am referring to the House vote on the stimulus package which passed without a single Republican vote.

What happened to Obama being the Post-Partisan president? What happened to a new way of doing things in Washington? What happened to reaching across the aisle? Perhaps, you're thinking, Obama did everything he could have to pull Republicans on board; there was nothing he could do.

Well, if this is your position, I would have to respectfully disagree with you. President Obama allowed two things that ultimately caused the bipartisan breakdown.

1) He allowed the Democrats to draft the bill with absolutely no Republican input. Now it seems to me that there was never any intention of having any Republicans support this bill. But when you control both houses of Congress and the presidency, you can pass whatever you want. So, all the pseudo-pandering President Obama was doing last week was simply a show that will look good in his re-election campaign.

2) President Obama allowed his fellow Democrats to fill this bill with 'Pork,' money marked for specific projects that are not necessarily in the public interest. After eight years of the most fiscally irresponsible president in American history, it would be nice if our president stopped trying to pass an inconceivable debt onto our generation.

On the other side of the aisle, the Republican National Committee elected their first African-American party chairman, former Maryland Lt. Governor Michael Steele, this past week. (A clear counter to the Democrats electing of President Barack Obama)

As of last week, both of the dominant political parties in our country are run by African Americans; although they may disagree ideologically, they now have the power to set their party's agenda.

Now that we can set the agenda, there is no excuse why minority issues, specifically those of African-Americans, cannot be a part of the national political discussion.

Perhaps, I'm a little pessimistic on this point, but as I attempted to contemplate when black people in positions of amazing establishment power used their power to change our community, I came up with nothing. Maybe, things will be different this time, as we've never had this much power, or at least I hope they will.

We've been fighting for decades to attain the ranks and positions that we now have, and D.C. is starting to look like a good old-school house party. Barack Obama is the DJ, congressional Democrats are his entourage and Republicans are standing on the wall watching everyone else have fun, with Michael Steele leading the pack. There's just one problem, the house is falling down around us and we don't have anything to celebrate yet.

The function of freedom is to free somebody else."

- Toni Morrison, author

Textbook Rental Company 'Chegg' is Called the New 'Netflix for Textbooks'

BY BRITTANY BLACK
Contributing Writer

For the first time in her three years of college, Kelsey Boyd can walk into her campus bookstore with a smile on her face.

She watches her fellow students scramble around frantically looking for the new, updated editions of their textbooks. Last year, *Introduction to Psychology* cost \$120. This year, it's priced at \$190.

"For just something like seven additional pages," Boyd said. "They obviously never heard of Chegg Textbook Rental."

Chegg Textbook Rental is the new wave rippling through college campuses. It boasts a catalogue of a million books.

Osman Rashid and Aayush Phumbhara started the company in 2005 to allow students at Iowa State University to list their textbooks for resale. It was the Craigslist of college textbook world.

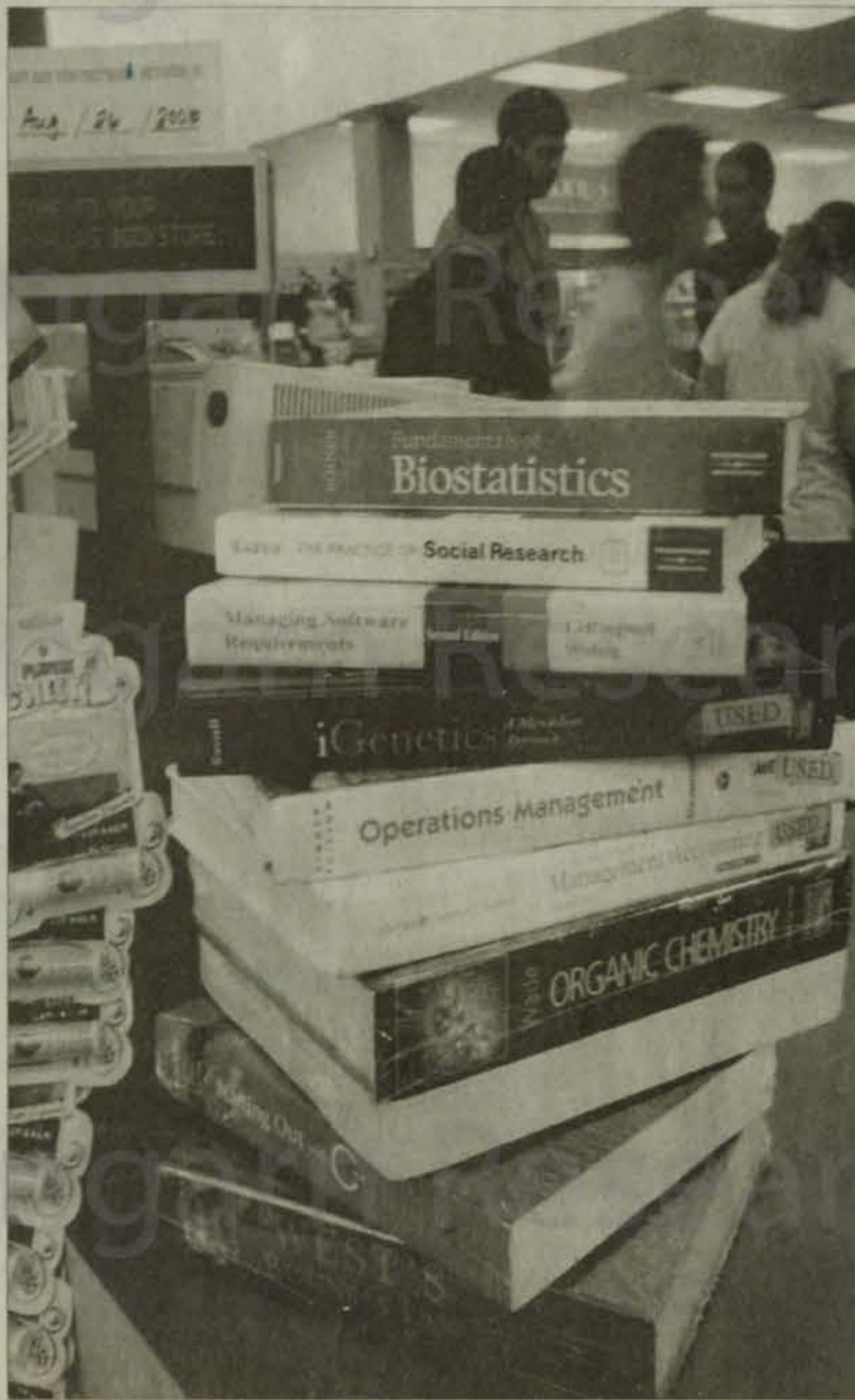
The company has since grown to serve students at colleges and universities across the country. Students who rent from Chegg can save anywhere from 65 percent to 85 percent on the price of the book. According to Phumbhara, last year alone, Chegg customers saved \$60 million.

Phumbhara saw great potential in Chegg from the very beginning. "We started Chegg as a sort of Craigslist for college students," Phumbhara said. "Then we began to see that students are more interested in exchanging and selling books to each other."

That gave Phumbhara and Rashid the idea to come up with something revolutionary that would save money on textbooks and allow students to rent and sell their books to earn money. In 2007, Chegg went national.

So, How does Chegg work?

It's as simple as renting a movie through Netflix. It's so similar to the Netflix rental method, that Chegg's founders originally named the company 'Textbookflix.com.' They later renamed the company Chegg to make it easier



Natalie Coudill - Dallas Morning News (MCT)

According to Chegg's Web site, there are no monthly subscription fees. In efforts to be more environmentally friendly, for each book transaction, the company builds a tree.

to remember. It's a combination of the words "chicken" and "egg."

"We wanted a name that was fun and that people would remember easily,"

Phumbhara said. "In school, all of us discuss the question of 'what came first, the chicken or the egg?' We wanted to say that Chegg is number one in textbook

rentals. So to answer the question, we came first."

To rent books, students go online to Chegg's Web site and create a free account. Once that is established, students search for their books by entering the title, author, ISBN number or key word of the textbook.

Chegg's owners promise all their books to be in usable condition. Rental fees vary by books and are paid online. Book orders come with a pre-paid envelope to return them when done with use.

In addition to the convenience of renting textbooks from their dorm rooms, students can also save hundreds of dollars.

"With Chegg, we are more concerned with students saving money than us making money," Phumbhara said. "We understand how much buying textbooks cost. When you buy books, only the publishers make money."

Abigail Morgan, a junior at Howard University, is considering ordering her books from Chegg next semester.

"I don't know a lot of people at Howard who rent their textbooks," Morgan said. She said since learning about Chegg, she would consider using the company next semester.

If saving money is not a big enough incentive to rent from Chegg, the fact that they are environmentally conscious could be. For every book that students rent, sell or even donate, Chegg plants one tree. Last year, Chegg planted 700 acres worth of trees. That is equivalent to 175 city blocks.

Boyd has been a faithful customer of Chegg since she discovered how simple it was.

"My mom told me about Chegg at the beginning of this school year," said Boyd, a junior at the College of Charleston. "I have been using Chegg ever since and I love it. I have saved hundreds of dollars on books and I no longer have to worry about buying a \$100 book from the campus bookstore and only getting \$20 in return when I attempt to sell it back."

MOTHERLAND MONDAYS

Country Spotlight: Angola

The Republic of Angola is located in south-central Africa and borders Namibia, the Congo, Zambia and the Atlantic Ocean. Until 1975, Angola was a Portuguese territory, which ended after the Portuguese Colonial War that lasted from 1961-1974. Angola is the second-largest diamond and petroleum producer in sub-Saharan Africa. However, according to the International Monetary Fund, more than \$4 billion in oil receipts have disappeared from Angola's treasury - the people of Angola remain among the continent's poorest. Angola's official language is Portuguese and the president is Jose' Eduardo dos Santos. According to a report from the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, Angola's education system is severely under-funded. Organizations, such as Africa Aid, seek to help remedy the education problems facing many African countries, including Angola.

- Jada F. Smith, Nation & World Editor

Continental Briefs

Sheikh Sharif Ahmed has been elected to the Somali presidency, after winning a majority vote in a secret ballot vote by members of the Somali parliament. The election follows the resignation of President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed. Somalia is currently experiencing intense political unrest due to the militia's control of much of the country.

According to BBC.com, George Obama, Barack Obama's Kenyan half-brother, was arrested in Nairobi with possession of marijuana. Police chief Joshua Omokulongolo said, "He is not a drug peddler. But it is illegal; it is a banned substance." Barack Obama and George Obama have the same father, but have reportedly only met twice.

More than 200,000 school teachers in Kenya organized a 10-day strike that resulted in the shutdown of 18,000 schools in Kenya. The 10-day strike ended on Friday after the government offered to double the teachers' salaries over the next three years. According to BBC.com, the lowest paid teachers were paid about \$130 a month.

Patrick Chinamasa, the acting Finance Minister in Zimbabwe, announced that Zimbabweans will be allowed to begin conducting business in multiple currencies in an effort to help the country's inflation problem. According to BBC's southern Africa correspondent Peter Biles, the Zimbabwean dollar "has become a laughing stock." In addition to rising inflation, Zimbabwe is also facing a severe cholera outbreak.

Clashes between Muslims and Christians in Nigeria became more violent two months ago when a Christian mob burned down a Muslim school in the Nigerian city of Jos. Some students have yet to recover from the trauma. "At night, I still feel they are coming back again, that someone will come and kill me and I don't think there'll be peace," said Aminu Mohamed, according to BBC.com. Shuaibu Abubakar, one of the school's teachers, said that one of the students was shot in the stomach and the mob burned their mosque, school and library.

- Compiled by Jada F. Smith, Nation & World Editor

Me, Roger and Rafa at
Twilight

BY MICHAEL BENJAMIN
Contributing Columnist

I know, I know. You're expecting a column about the Super Bowl.

Sure, I tossed around the idea of writing about the Super Bowl in this column. When I first started writing this column weekly for *The Hilltop*, one of my dreams was to write about the "Big Game." I wanted to emulate the sports pundits on the major television networks and ramble about the emergence of Larry Fitzgerald, the genius of Mike Tomlin and the various situations that influenced the outcome of the Super Bowl. I wanted to be one of those guys.

Or so I thought.

However, I thought about the annoying commercials that would impede my viewing process, begging me to spend my meager earnings on excess goods during America's worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. I took into account the throbbing pains I would incur by watching four hours of pre-game hysteria.

After deliberating for approximately 10 seconds, I came to a conclusion. Writing another boring Super Bowl column would be a complete waste of time for everybody.

You saw the Big Game. You know what happened.

Why regurgitate the same garbage here at the column?

Dear reader, begin thanking God that I came to my senses and decided to save you from excess Super Bowl coverage. This year, since the Australian Open Final also landed on Super Sunday, I decided instead to watch the championship match and write my column about tennis's two heavyweights, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer.

However, there was only one problem: The match would begin at 3 a.m.

In preparation for the early but historic match, I ran to the nearest supermarket and stacked up on hot chocolate packets and ginger snaps. I sacrificed my Saturday night and went to bed around what I personally like to call "retired people's bedtime." Finally, I set all possible alarms in my vicinity for 2:50 a.m., EST. Yes, I was doing the most.

Of course, I still didn't get up until 3:10 a.m.

After a quick listen to Rob Base's "It Takes Two" to get my adrenaline flowing, I turned up the volume and saw both men replete with intensity, focusing only on the match ahead. Rafael Nadal was quiet, sipping his water bottle. Roger Federer stood seemingly knowing that this match stood between him and the coveted major tournament record held by tennis great Pete Sampras. I focused on the inherent beauty that defined Rod Laver Arena, one of tennis's hallmark venues.

The match began, with winners abundant and unforced errors absent. I tried to remain alert, praying for an epic match like last Wimbledon. But nature was calling, and I started to favor a trip to the bathroom. Hopefully, the two titans of tennis wouldn't take notice.

However, just as I started to inch towards the door (3-2 in Set 1), a huge shot exploded off Federer's racket. The crowd erupted and I sprinted back to the room. I would just have to wait for a commercial break.

A long match ensued, with great shot after great shot. Momentum shifted on a moment's notice. Finally, after a four-hour and twenty-three minute battle, Rafael Nadal stood alone as champion.

Throughout the match, everything in my world was motionless. Quiet. It was just Roger, Rafa and me at twilight.

And it was great.

Michael Benjamin is a senior English major from Queens Village, NY. You can check out more of his perspectives on sports over at his blog, PointsOffTurnovers.blogspot.com.

Sports, Hip-Hop Worlds Fuse Together

BY CIERRA JONES
Copy Editor

In 1984, Kurtis Blow released the single "Basketball" that brought sports to the hip-hop world. Throughout the years, the worlds of both professional athletes and hip-hop stars have often collided.

During the 1990s, Rock N' Jock appeared on MTV where both celebrities and professional athletes competed against one another, also treading the line between hip-hop and the world of sports.

Many athletes who have attempted to crossover to the music industry include Allen Iverson, Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal, Floyd Mayweather, The Rock and Tony Parker to name a few.

Iverson was set to release his debut album "Misunderstood" in February 2001 but the album was never released.

"I feel like people took it the wrong way, and it took all the excitement out of it," Iverson said in an interview on his Web site, alleniversononline.com. "The negativity behind it was something I should not go through — or my teammates, or, better yet, my kids and family."

Bryant even tried his hand at rapping, with the track K.O.B.E. featuring Tyra Banks. Bryant's old teammate O'Neal has five CDs under his belt, one being a greatest hits album. O'Neal not only broke into the music industry, he tried his hand in movies as well.

Sophomore audio production major Chris Raines said, "I think anybody can be an artist, but in order to be taken seriously you have to be determined and dedicated, and I don't believe most athletes have that time if they are already devoting themselves to their sport."

Athletes are not the only ones attempting to crossover, however. Rapper Master P has made several attempts to play for the NBA. The closest Master P ever got was with the Charlotte Hornets in 1999, appearing on the training camp roster, but he never made it to the regular season. However, his son Percy Romeo Miller, better known as Romeo, who is also a rapper, has had success in pursuing his basketball dreams. He obtained a



Romeo Miller (right) takes advice from his dad Master P (left) during a basketball game four years ago. Romeo has been one of the few entertainers to make a successful transition from entertainment to athletics. He currently plays basketball for the USC Trojans.

basketball scholarship and is now playing for the University of Southern California Trojans.

"If a rapper [or] artist is good enough to play professional sports then I would take them seriously, because if the artist was not good enough they would not make it," said Endor Cooper, Bison football captain. "I never really had any dreams or thoughts of entering the music industry. I'm too shy in front of people, but I do sit back and wonder sometimes

what if I went that route."

Recently, the two worlds collided with Washington Wizard DeShawn Stevenson and rapper Soulja Boy vs. Cleveland Cavalier LeBron James and rapper Jay-Z. In an interview before the Cavaliers vs. Wizards play-off game, Stevenson made the comment that James was "overrated." James retorted that responding to Stevenson would be like Jay-Z responding to a diss from Soulja Boy. Soulja Boy later made a comment

that he did not appreciate the disrespect from James, and showed up at the Cavaliers vs. Wizards game in a Wizards jersey to support Stevenson.

"Hip-hop and sports have almost fused together and it's hard to put artists and athletes in a box and say that's all they are and...they'll ever be anymore," said Maquita Eaton, a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

The NBA Reveals All-Star Players

NBA Western Conference Roster

- Chris Paul
- Kobe Bryant
- Tim Duncan
- Amare Stoudemire
- Yao Ming
- Dirk Nowitzki
- Shaquille O'Neal
- Brandon Roy
- Chauncey Billups
- Paul Gasol
- David West
- Tony Parker



NBA Eastern Conference Roster

- Allen Iverson
- Dwyane Wade
- LeBron James
- Kevin Garnett
- Dwight Howard
- Joe Johnson
- Jameer Nelson
- Danny Granger
- Paul Pierce
- Chris Bosh
- Devin Harris
- Rashard Lewis



NOW... IT'S YOUR TURN

Explore

Tropical ecosystems
in Costa Rica or
South African Ecology

Experience

Hands-on field research
in leading global
biological field stations

Excel

Earn Duke University
Credits for coursework
and research projects



Semester Programs in
Global Health • Tropical Biology
African Ecology
Summer Program in
Field Tropical Biology

www.ots.duke.edu • 919-684-5774
otsadmissions@duke.edu
and contact your Study Abroad Office

Apply Now! Applications for Summer and Fall programs
are being accepted on a rolling basis (small classes are full).

Duke University



Organization for
Tropical Studies

OTS is committed to providing opportunities for all students interested in studying with us.

Sports Trivia!
Who won Major League
Baseball's first World Series
in 1903?

Answer:
Search today's Hilltop!!!

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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



Q: What do you give the big banker who has everything?
A: I dunno, how about a freaking chandelier!

Charles Metze III - Cartoonist

Bailout Crisis: Irresponsibility, Greed Has Overcome Companies

In a frantic attempt to rescue the nation's big businesses from the crisis on Wall Street, the government implemented an \$700 billion emergency stimulus package which gave money to companies in jeopardy of going bankrupt.

Although the purpose of the money has yet to change, certain companies like Merrill Lynch and Citigroup Inc. decided to lavishly spend taxpayers' money instead of responsibly utilizing the funds.

Last October, former President Bush signed the bill into law after a second vote by the House of Representatives. The original purpose of the bailout plan was to inject investments back into troubled financial institutions. Government officials and constituents were skeptical of the bailout plan because they feared that frivolous activity would occur because, ironically, Fortune 500 company heads are some of the most financially irresponsible people on the planet.

Unsurprisingly, those in opposition to the bill have been proven right. The most unfortunate part of it all is that these companies have yet to learn from the mistakes that caused the need for a bailout plan in the first place.

Citigroup received \$45 bil-

lion in capital from the government. Any logical thinker would ask, "What does Citigroup plan to do with their money?" And like any good company, they have provided us with an answer: Citigroup is planning to purchase a \$50 mil-

lion in office-remodeling expenses and \$4 million in end-of-the-year bonuses. Thain thought remodeling his office was justifiable because he would not have been able to work under the conditions of the old one.

A \$13,000 chandelier, a \$25,000 table and a \$175,000 rug were among the items used to furnish his new office which cost more than the average American's home.

Unless he planned on living out of this office for the rest of his natural life, then this was just plain stupid. And even if he did plan to live there forever, he could have done without the

\$68,000 credenza (a closed cabinet for office papers). Needless to say, Thain recently resigned.

While working Americans are being forced to refinance their homes and search for new jobs, corporate leaders are misusing the money they were given by the U.S. government.

In the future, the government should outline stipulations regarding how bailout money should be used and there should be direct penalties for frivolous spending.

At the end of the day, a \$50 million jet and a \$13,000 chandelier don't matter when a father can not provide for his family.

Our View:

The government should enforce punishment on irresponsible bailout spending.

lion jet. Michigan Sen. Carl Levin considers the purchase to be absurd and wants the Department of Treasury to block the purchase of the Dassault Falcon 7X.

Levin also stated that the purchase of a foreign plane is a double standard because domestic auto companies are being forced to sell off their planes. And he's right. Citigroup claims they are not using government funds to make the purchase and that the new plane will be more fuel efficient than their current ones.

An even more foolish method of spending was done by former Merrill Lynch CEO John Thain. He reportedly spent over \$1 mil-

Do you have an opinion about something?

We'd like to hear from you!

Submit your perspective to
hilltopeditorials@gmail.com

Please include your major and classification!

Sports Trivia Answer!

The first World Series took place in 1903. It was won by the Boston Pilgrims.

Do you want to write for
The Hilltop?

Come to our next budget meeting!

Sunday @ 6 p.m. in the West Towers

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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

Assist. Campus Editor

Christina L. Burton

Business & Technology Editor

Crystal J. Allen

Copy Chief

Cierra Jones

Copy Editors

Jenise Cameron

Online Editor

Eboni Farmer

Online Editor

Jessica Littles

Special Issues Editor

Aleesa Mann

Life & Style Editor

Flynn Bailey

Editorials & Perspectives

Charles Metze III

Cartoonist

Jeremy Williams

Layout Editor

Jada F. Smith

Nation & World Editor

Deontay Morris

Sports Editor

Natalie Thompson

Metro Editor

Travis White

Photo Editor

Faraday Okoro

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)

hilltoptic@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.

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.

Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity Inc., Alpha Tau Chapter Presents: Spring 2009 Rush Week

Monday 2/2 Meet Night Part Deux Hilltop Lounge 7:16pm

Tuesday 2/3 Fat Tuesday: Over Indulging at HU Chemistry Auditorium 7:16 pm

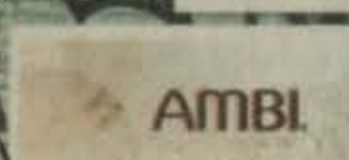
Howard University 4th Annual Hip-Hop & Higher Education Symposium YES WE CAN! Young Women United Against HIV/AIDS



Gina Ravera Mya Melyssa Ford Maria Davis

**February 5, 2009
Blackburn Center Ballroom
1 pm - 5 pm**

Sponsored by
Howard University Student Health Center
and
Substance Abuse HIV/AIDS Outreach Program (S.H.O.P.)



For More Information, Contact
Joshua Kondwani Wright
jkwright1492@yahoo.com
202-213-4132

SAVE THE DATE! On **FEBRUARY 3, 2009** FROM 1 PM TO 2 PM there will be a massive voting take-over on essence.com. **VOTE FOR** fellow bison **ANDREA HILL** and her fiancé **RASHAD SANDERS** IN **ESSENCE MAGAZINE'S WILL YOU MARRY ME CONTEST**. **ANDREA** and **RASHAD** are one of five couples that have a chance to win a **\$50,000 wedding!!!** They are currently in **SECOND PLACE**, and you can push them in **FIRST**. **YOU CAN VOTE AS MANY TIMES AS POSSIBLE**. Howard has always been a school that supports its own, so please support a Howard alumna, to be victorious in **Essence Magazine's Will You Marry Me contest!** The contest ends **February 12th**. The actual link is <http://essence.com/packages/willyoumarryme/vote/html>.

Come Join the Health Professions Society (HPS) for our next informative general body meeting on February 4th from 5:30 to 7pm in the Blackburn Forum. Refreshments will be served.

Sitters Wanted. \$12 or more per hour. Register free for jobs near campus or home. www.student-sitters.com

RTVE Students! 2009 Robeson Awards FINAL DEADLINE FRIDAY 02.06.09 5PM Packet Due in Room 230 (Download Application Online)



What To Do @ HU

I AM NOT MY SKIN

Sister Stars, a Howard University females-only support group where young women can talk about anything and everything in complete confidentiality, will discuss "The Complexity of My Complexion" with Tosin Adegbola. Adegbola, Ph.D., author and Morgan State University professor, will facilitate a discussion on women's image and identity. **Mon, 6 p.m., College of Medicine, Rm B5. Free**

OBAMA MEN



It's called Man Up, a "sacred circle" meeting for Howard men where they can get things off their chest, like girlfriends, money troubles, crazy instructors or even the barber who gave you that bad haircut. No, President Barack Obama will not be there. We just knew that might make you read on. **Mon, 6:30 p.m., C.B. Powell Building, Rm 211. Free**

GOD, YOU AND EXCEL

Ever wonder how to best serve God while working on that spreadsheet? Okay, maybe not. Still, come and hear Rev. Renita J. Weems, Ph.D., biblical scholar, author and one of the nation's top preachers, talk about faith in the workplace. Her talk, which explores the integration of faith, passion and vocation, examines the connection between your passions and your purpose. Free food afterwards. **Mon, 7 p.m., Blackburn Center Reading Lounge. Free**

LET THE MUSIC TAKE YOUR MIND

This is a continuation of last semester's popular noon jazz series. So good that they kept it up. This time, it's "Jazztet," a group of talented Howard students. One of the good things is you can enjoy the music while you have lunch, because food is permitted and tables are provided. Dancing is also okay. **Wed, 12 p.m., Blackburn Center Art Gallery. Free**



YOU'RE TURNING DOWN MYA AND MELYSSA FORD?



Grammy-Award-winning artist Mya, HIV/AIDS activist Maria Davis, film actress Gina Ravera, WKYS radio personality Angie Ange, Howard University Prof. Debayil Thomas, television personality Melyssa Ford, Southern AIDS Coalition Executive Director

Patrick Packer and Taylor Thomas of The Steve Harvey Morning Show will be at the 4th Annual Hip Hop and Higher Education Symposium. That about says it all. This year they tackle HIV/AIDS, Women and the Hip-Hop Generation. **Thu, 1 p.m., Blackburn Center Ballroom. Free**

PREACH ON, BROTHER

The Rev. Calvin O. Butts, Ph.D., is the pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church of New York, the home of the late congressman and civil rights legend Adam Clayton Powell. He's also president of State University of New York at Old Westbury and is a founder and chairman of the Abyssinian Development Corporation, which is responsible for over \$500 million in housing and commercial development in Harlem. A renowned civil rights activist in his own right, Butts has graced pulpits nationally and internationally. **Sun, 11 a.m., Cramton Auditorium**



HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Office of University Communications

For more of What To Do @ HU, visit www.howard.edu, and go to the iLab to secure your [howard.edu](http://www.howard.edu) email address.