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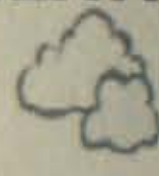
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Tomorrow:

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Established

1924**THE HILLTOP**

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO. 83

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Tuesday's Notebook**CAMPUS**

THE NAACP IS CELEBRATING ITS CENTENNIAL. FIND OUT HOW THE HOWARD CHAPTER IS COMMEMORATING THE OCCASION.

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

FIND OUT WHICH HOWARD STUDENT HAS FINANCIAL SWAG WHILE DEALING WITH THE RECESSION.

METRO

CURRENTLY IN THE DISTRICT, RESIDENTS DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR CONGRESS. FIND OUT WHAT'S BEING DONE.

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PAGE 5

Phylicia Rashad Announced as Charter Day Speaker

Carl Juelke - Miami Herald (MCT)

Howard alumna Phylicia Rashad will speak at Charter Day this year.

BY CAMILLE AUGUSTIN
Editorial Assistant

Following last year's Charter Day address given by Deval Patrick, governor of Massachusetts, students are excited to see a more familiar name this spring.

While students had the pleasure of having the new university president, Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D., as the keynote speaker for Convocation this past fall, addressing students for Charter Day in Cramton auditorium on March

13 will be Tony-award winning actress Phylicia Rashad.

"As a student, I am extremely excited that someone I personally look up to will be the oratory," said Victoria Kirby, undergraduate trustee.

Charter Day, which normally begins the spring semester as Convocation, does for the fall, is described as the founding of the university. This year, there will be a performance by singer Cece Winans at the 85th annual Charter Day dinner.

"It celebrates when Congress signed the Charter for the creation of the institution," Kirby said.

Most notably known for her role as Clair Huxtable on the Cosby Show, Rashad's name is familiar to the mass public as well as students, as she is a graduate of Howard. She graduated with a degree in Fine Arts in 1970.

According to Kirby, Rashad exemplifies what it means to be a Howard woman, and she has carried out the core values that

Howard University has "represented since our founding."

"I think Phylicia Rashad's arrival on Howard's campus is so major," said George Chapman, a freshman print journalism major. "She definitely is the epitome of success and her presence will undoubtedly inspire the university. Hopefully, it'll spark a fire in the minds of the students who are not yet mature enough to realize their full potential."

Additional reporting by Linsey Isaacs, Asst. Campus Editor

Org Funding Comes to a Halt*Administration finalizes date for fund distribution for over 100 organizations*BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

Only 10 of the 112 recognized student organizations have received funding this academic year.

According to the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) Financial Advisor Francis Roberts, he submitted paperwork for \$55,000 of organizational funding on Oct. 22, 2008. They have yet to see one dollar.

HUSA Executive President Nicholas Owen signed his name to the bottom of an e-mail to Chief Financial Officer Sidney Evans on Feb. 2, stressing the importance of distributing the checks that should have been cut in the fall.

In the e-mail to Evans, Owen wrote, "It has been over three months

since this paperwork was turned in and it is unfair to the students that an entire semester has passed and they are still unable to access their funds."

Upon notice of this situation, Evans demanded an answer as to why organizations have not been paid.

Evans forwarded an e-mail to *The Hilltop* with his answer from the Controller's Office.

It stated, "The Controller's Office received the request for payment to the student organizations in late October 2008. Only a few student organizations have been paid to date, due to staff turnovers in Accounts Payable and the implementation of PeopleSoft and related payment processes. However, the remaining organizations will be paid by Monday, Feb. 9, 2009."

Discontent with the amount of time it has taken to disperse funds,

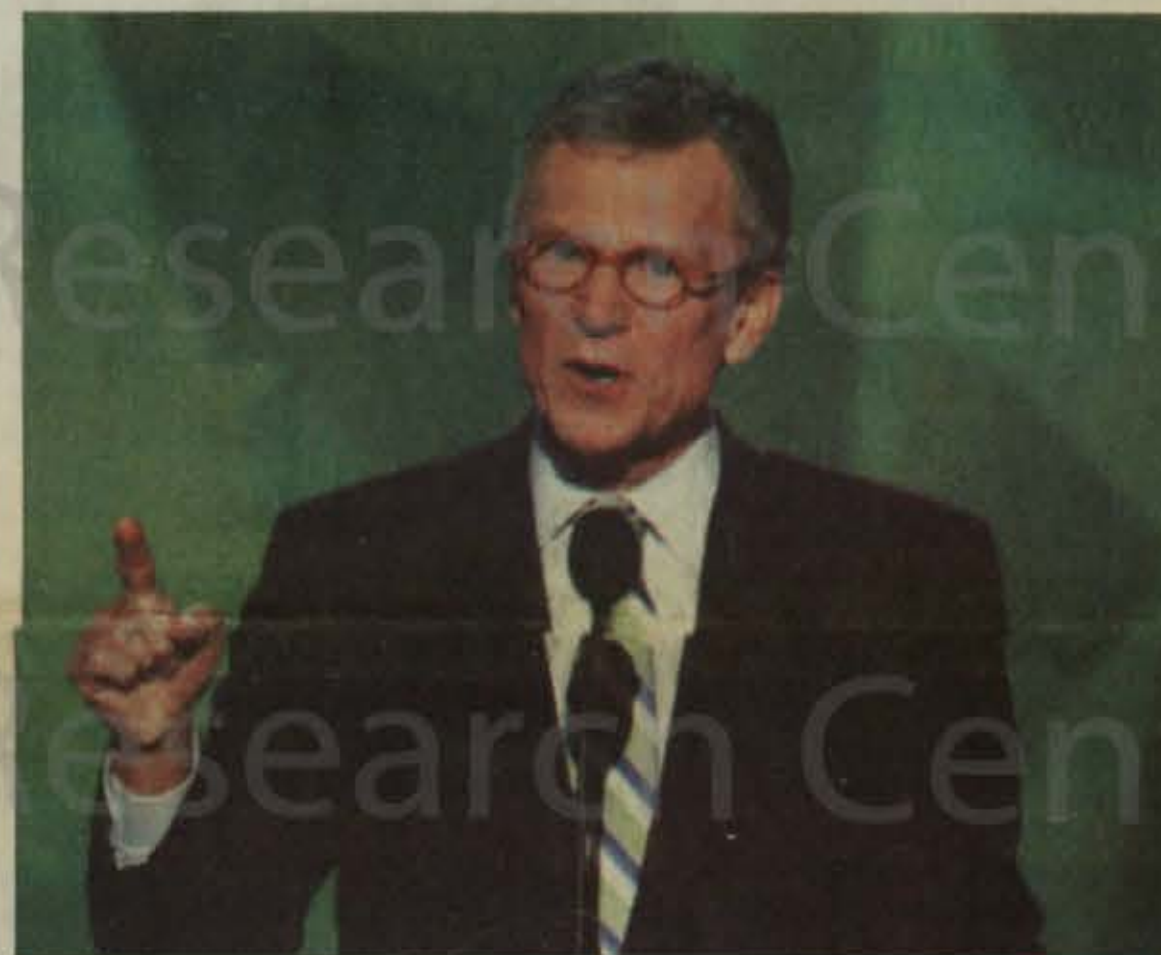
Owen said, "Fall funding is supposed to be dispersed in the fall."

Roberts, also frustrated with the delay of funding, said he has made several visits to the service center to find out what happened to the money that was supposed to have been distributed three months ago. According to him, the service center said "the paperwork had been lost."

In Owen's e-mail, he wrote, starting on Jan. 14, Roberts made four visits to the service center to check on the status of the checks.

As of Feb. 2, Roberts said he is "working with the account manager to figure out what problems occurred and what we need to do next."

Owen felt the need to step in because "at this point, we've been waiting three months," he said.

> See **FUNDING**, page 3

Brian Deer - Sacramento Bee (MCT)

Tom Daschle recently apologized to the Senate after errors were found in his tax history. The Democratic senator reportedly paid almost \$140,000 in back taxes.

Secretary of Health Nominee Daschle Defaults in TaxesBY ANGELA P. SMITH
Staff Writer

Tom Daschle, President Barack Obama's choice to head the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, apologized in a letter to the Senate panel considering his nomination for errors in reporting his taxes Monday.

Daschle, the former Senate majority leader and Democratic senator from South Dakota, recently paid close to \$140,000 in owed taxes and interest, according to the *Washington Post*.

"As you can well imagine, I am deeply embarrassed and disappointed by the errors that required me to amend my

tax returns," Daschle wrote in the letter to Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), the top Republican on the committee.

"I apologize for the errors and profoundly regret that you have had to devote time to them," he added.

In the letter, Daschle explains how he overlooked taxes on income for charitable contributions, consulting work and the use of a car service.

Obama appointed Daschle to implement his proposal to reduce the average American family's health care costs by \$2,500 a year.

Despite the tax matters, Obama said at the White House Monday morn-

> See **DASCHLE**, page 3

Brian Johnson - Contributing Photographer

Entrepreneurs Shine at Forum*'Millionaire' forum brings student business leaders to the forefront*

The School of Business recently held a forum entitled "So You Want To Be A Millionaire?" where financial and fiduciary topics were discussed among a panel of five successful Howard student entrepreneurs.

The panelists included Anisa Sirur, Charles Taylor, Anesu Nyamunda, Matt Marshall and Lonnie McNeal, all of whom have started their own businesses. The symposium began with self-introductions and brief histories of each student's enterprise.

Lonnie McNeal, who lectures regularly on financial topics, led much of the discussion. McNeal's company, "Speak and Share," is dedicated to teaching students about smart investing and personal finance management. Her entrepreneurial skills and stock market intelligence have landed her name in not only *Essence* magazine, but *Black Enterprise* as well. She also spoke briefly on the importance of self-empowerment within the community.

- Compiled by Brian Johnson, Contributing Photographer

Peanut Butter Recall Leads Sodexho to Follow Suit at HowardBY KYLA GRANT
Contributing Writer

Kellogg's, Keebler, Austin, Famous Amos, Hy-Vee, Perry's, Shurfin and Wegmans are all producers of the nation's favorite cookies, crackers, snack mix, baked goods, fudge and ice cream.

But with the recent expansion of a nationwide recall of peanut butter, a host of delectable treats produced by

these companies have been deemed unsafe.

At the center of the peanut butter probe is the Peanut Corp. of America's (PCA) plant in Blakely, Ga. When federal inspectors visited the Georgia plant, they reported finding roaches, mold, a leaking roof and other sanitary problems. Managers at the Blakely, Ga. plant owned

> See **PEANUT**, page 3

Howard NAACP Reaches 100th Year

BY MELISSA MONTGOMERY
Contributing Writer

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is one of the oldest civil rights organizations to date.

In 1909, concerned with welfare of the minorities in America, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. DuBois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villard and William English Walling joined forces to secure the future of African Americans.

Now, as its centennial on Feb. 12 looms, the NAACP has inspired many people to start their own chapters and branches.

Nationally, the NAACP has demonstrated its mission: "Ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination."

Junior film production major Jeremy Burkett is not a part of the NAACP, but respects its mission and goals to help minorities.

"I look at the NAACP as an organization that stands up for black rights," Burkett said. "Is it political and do they choose battles that are most advantage to them? Yes. But, nevertheless, their cause is good."

The Howard University Chapter plans to celebrate the 100-year anniversary by hosting an NAACP Week from Feb. 8-14.

NAACP Week will have programs that focus on the principles of the organization. Brittney Autry, a senior psychology major and president of the organization said she is very excited about the events.

"We will celebrate our centennial on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009 with a birthday party in Carnegie," Autry said. "We have invited several organizations, community leaders and students to share this



Since its 1909 inception, the NAACP has continued to serve as an advocate for the African-American community through service and protest. Howard's NAACP chapter plans to celebrate its 100-year anniversary on Feb. 8-14.

experience with us."

Autry said there will also be a viewing of the Image Awards with the D.C. Branch of the NAACP on Feb. 12 at the celebration.

This year, Autry and Vice President Ceily Moore will have the opportunity to attend the NAACP Image Awards in Los Angeles.

"I think it is going to be an amazing experience being there, celebrating the outstanding achievements and performances of people of color," said Moore, a senior pre-physical therapy major.

To conclude the week of events, there will be a community service event on Saturday morning, Feb. 14.

Junior public relations major Grace Salvant is the press and publicity chair for Howard's Chapter. Salvant was a member of her local New York chapter in high school and was positively influenced by the people in the

organization.

"I love this organization," Salvant said. "I love NAACP as a whole. An organization full of positive black people working towards great change and equality for all people is more than something to be just proud of."

Salvant said she and the other members of the Howard's Chapter of NAACP have worked very hard for the centennial celebration.

"I manage the promotion of the programs that NAACP holds throughout the chapter, and I also assist with program development," Salvant said.

Senior accounting major Taisha Hawkins is the secretary of the Howard Chapter and is very proud of her organization and the people who represent it.

"Empowered black people can come together for great cause to effect change," Hawkins said. "[I am] proud to witness history everyday."

The community service

chair is sophomore political science major Chaniqua D. Nelson, who works closely with the local chapters in order to preserve the organization's "rich legacy and history."

Being a part of the organization has helped Nelson to be more aware of the issues affecting black people and by being more aware, she believes she can help the community.

"I strive to connect NAACP members with community service that uplifts the community," she said. "I have learned the importance of staying connected to the community and knowing the issues that affect the community."

According to Moore, "[NAACP] has been my teacher. I have learned so many ins and outs of the organization itself and of the injustice and inequality that so many Americans still face, even 100 years later."

Afro-American Department Celebrates 40 Years of Studies

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

"There are indications that major curriculum changes may be imminent for next semester. At a faculty meeting April 4 and at a recent informal meeting of the Board of Trustees, there was general approval of proposed changes toward an 'Afro-American orientation' in the course offerings at Howard."

Published in 1968 by *The Hilltop*, those two sentences commemorate what is now a 40-year legacy of African-American studies at Howard University. These last years of a decade marked by the Civil Rights movement witnessed the integration of an Afro-American curriculum.

"These courses are a very definite reaction to previous years' student activism on campus and the cry for making the black university more relevant to the black community, nationally and internationally," said an upperclassman in the 1968 interview with *The Hilltop*.

The impact of these demonstrations have not been forgotten or erased from Howard's history.

Current Interim Chair of the Afro-American department Lila Ammons, Ph.D., stands by the fact that "student concerns, along with their desire to make the curriculum more relevant to their lives, led to the development of a student movement, whose protests eventually led to a decision to establish our department."

To commemorate the anniversary, Ammons said the department will hold a program to join students and alumni alike in a celebration of its 1969 founding. Details to the event are still in the early phases of planning.

With 40 years successfully completed, Ammons said he believes the department has grown immensely adding more programs and diversity to its course bulletin.

Sophomore Afro-American studies major Amato Nocera said the curriculum is one of the best in the country.

However, with the country witnessing a time of change, some scholars have referred to this time as a "post-racial" period, meaning race is no longer a prominent issue. Still, Ammons does not believe that her department — founded out of the tensions of race relations — shows any indications of slowing down.

"In many ways, racism and discrimination based on race is as real in America today as they were when the department was organized in 1969," Ammons said. "Since racial issues often raise their ugly head, it is critical that this department continues to thrive and produce scholars who are equipped to employ the analytical techniques of the social sciences to study the issues and use that knowledge to address the problems that continue to affect and depress the African-American community."

According to Nocera, the importance of black studies rests in its ability to "correct the perceptions" of history and present the "realist" depiction of history.

This "real" depiction of history allows students to discover who they are by allowing students to see their own culture in history.

Senior Afro-American studies minor Tanara Haynes said, "I used to try to conform to European standards, but now I am comfortable just being myself."

In the 1968 *Hilltop* interview, student Anthony Glittens said, "These curriculum changes will not make Howard a black university, but it is a start. Only the students can make Howard black."

Science Takes New Form With Brushstrokes

BY SPENCER WHITNEY
Contributing Writer

"Learned in Science, Explored in Art," an exhibit of paintings by Wolfgang Ritschel open to the public in the Louis Stokes Health Science Library, showcases paintings that focus on various medical areas of diagnosis and research.

The paintings reflect upon Ritschel's long-time work in the field of science and medicine.

"I think it was magnificent that I was able to attract this kind of exhibit," said Dr. Donald Wilson, senior vice president for Health Sciences. "The expression and understanding of diseases

is displayed through the expression of art in these individual pieces."

Wilson said Ritschel uses rich colors in his painting to make them appear more stark.

"I think the Louis Stokes Health Science Library is a great place to display a small number of paintings," he said.

Many of the pieces reflect a certain aspect of a medical diagnosis, surgery and research. With respect to the physicians and patients, the paintings are vivid with a collage of colors that make them stand out in a way that catches one's eye.

Pieces that stood out in the art exhibit included "Dyslexia," "Mental Illness: Bipolar Disorder and Schizo-

phrenia," "Migraine Pain" and "The Horror of Toxic Dangers."

While the names may reflect sensitive subjects, the artwork allows for the audience to get a sense of the emotions and feelings of the patients that are featured. On a lighter note, Pieces like "Musicament," "OPR-Teaching Hospital" and "The Conquest of Polio" represented themes of hope and progress.

Before becoming a professor emeritus of Pharmacokinetics and professor emeritus of Pharmacology at the University of Cincinnati, Ritschel had an interest in art.

The scientist-turned-artist traces his love for visual and performing arts back to his childhood in Austria. During many of his travels, Ritschel would take

along a sketch pad to draw pictures of various landscapes and people. Sometimes, he would head straight for the paint brush and watercolors to create his next masterpiece.

After over 40 years of a career in medicine and science, the professor decided to focus on his favorite pastime in the visual arts. By 2008, Ritschel has had over 60 solo exhibits all over the United States, as well as Europe and South America.

He has also participated in hundreds of group art shows, and describes his painting style as "expressionism influenced by fauvism."

Sophomore biology major TāLyn Maynard said "The Conquest of Polio" painting gives a valid portrayal of the

emergency room, but she would like to also see the patient as well.

"Just by looking at the textures and colors used in the painting, you can tell that it was a very creative process and it shows in-depth detail, too — which really draws my attention," Maynard said. "I think the main reason I enjoy it is because I am going to be a doctor one day and I love the positive vibe that I get from the piece."

The exhibit will run until April 3 and is open to the public. The hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., from Monday to Friday. The artist will also conduct a "Gallery Talk," discussing each painting at the library on March 12 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. the gallery.

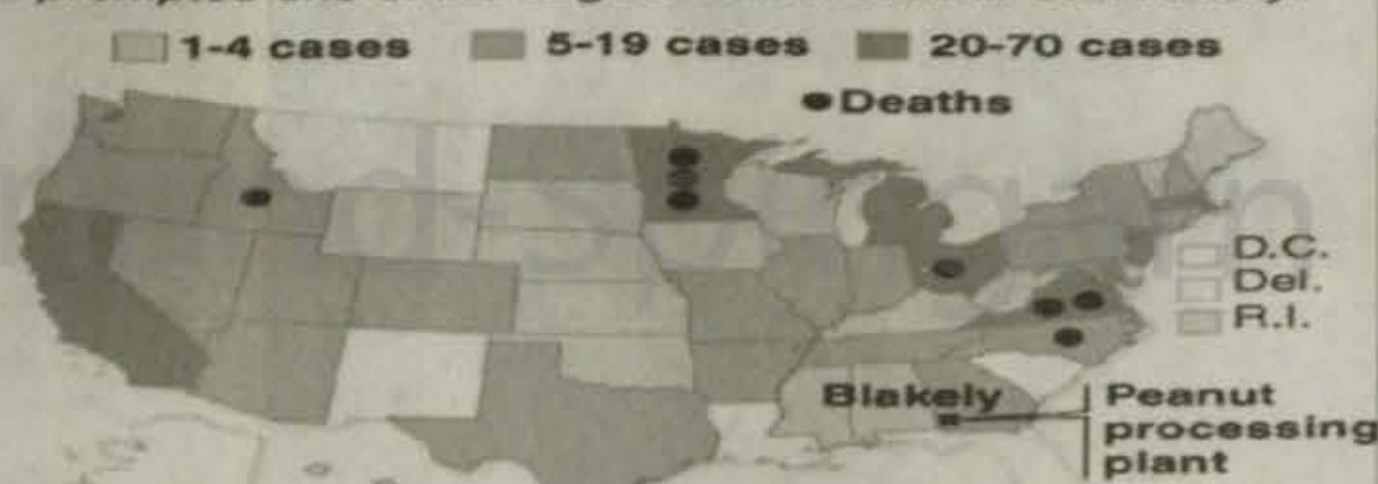
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YOU at the budget meeting. Sundays @ 6 p.m.

Salmonella outbreak

The outbreak linked to tainted peanut products has infected more than 500 people and prompted one of the largest food recalls in U.S. history.

Salmonella cases

529 cases in 43 states; eight deaths are linked to the outbreak as of Jan. 28, 2009



Peanut product recall

More than 430 kinds of cakes, cookies, crackers, candies, cereals and ice cream containing peanut products processed by Peanut Corporation of America since Jan. 1, 2007

Includes products containing:

- Peanut butter
- Peanut paste
- Peanut granules
- Peanut meal
- Dry-roasted peanuts
- Oil-roasted peanuts

U.S. peanut crop

- About 1.5 million tons per year
- Nearly half the crop used to make peanut butter
- Americans eat 3.3 pounds (1.5 kg) per person annually

Judy Treibler - MCT

The Peanut Corporation of America has recalled peanut butter until further notice, Sodexho has cancelled all peanut-related food orders.

Peanut Butter Recall Hits Home at HU

continued from FRONT, PEANUT

by Peanut Corp. of America continued shipping peanut products even after they were found to contain salmonella.

Although the company's peanut butter is not sold directly to consumers, the relatively small company is a distributor for many institutions and food companies, including Howard University's food supplier, Sodexho.

"We have been receiving e-mail updates about the tainted product since the end of last year," said Fernando Villones, manager of the university's main dining room.

Sodexho received word of the tainted products and contacted management immediately.

The Federal Drug Administration coupled with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has urged postponed consumption of peanut butter-containing products (such as cookies, crackers, cereal, candy and ice cream) until more information becomes available about whether the tainted peanut butter is said to not be affected by

the salmonella outbreak.

Still, Sodexho is leaving nothing up to chance.

"We no longer use any peanut products including peanut oil," Villones said. "The safety of the student is most important."

Some students are feeling the brunt of the peanut butter recall.

"I am a peanut butter addict," said Lauren White, a sophomore legal communications major. "They took all of the peanut butter out of the cafe and now I have to stand in line for a hot meal, versus making an old-fashioned peanut butter and jelly sandwich."

Sodexho staff refuses to provide students with jarred peanut butter, nor will they provide an assortment of cookies and cakes that may contain the tainted product.

"We threw everything out," Villones said. "We cancelled all shipments of peanut-related products."

Villones confirmed that Sodexho is not being refunded for the tainted peanut butter products.

The Bethune Annex dormitory

has posted a sign in the lobby warning students of the tainted peanut butter products.

"Sadly, a lot of students don't read and watch the news so we put up a sign to inform students of the health risks associated with peanut butter products," said Cyara Powell, a junior philosophy major.

As the strain of Salmonella continues to spread throughout the country, the number of affected persons has grown.

The CDC has reported that over 500 people from 43 different states have been infected since the initial recall in January 2007.

According to the CDC, those infected with Salmonella develop diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps 12-72 hours after infection. Although most people recover without treatment, severe infections may occur. Infants, elderly people and those with impaired immune systems are more likely to develop severe illness than others.

Organizations Said to Receive Funding Soon

continued from FRONT, FUNDING

To ensure that this does not happen again, the Controller's Office and Roberts will work together to implement new procedures that will guarantee timely payments this semester. He has also promised the student organizations that he will contact them personally when funding is eventually available.

Lori Evans, president of the Howard University Chapel Assistants, said she is disappointed with the slow process. She has been expecting \$1,079,09 this year.

"Organizational funding is necessary for us to function and should be

distributed in a timely manner," she said, "especially when we submitted all our paperwork on time."

Having to rely on outside sources for funding, the Chapel Assistants told *The Hilltop* they "have no money to advertise religious life activities."

Roberts said in addition to having operating funds, the organizations need to have their money allocated in enough time to spend it all. If not, it will affect the amount they receive in the 2009-2010 academic year.

Owen stressed the importance of students not having to pay out of pocket to cover expenses.

Daschle Apologizes to Senate After Tax Mistake

continued from FRONT, DASCHLE

ing that he "absolutely" backs Daschle to head the agency. Daschle also received backing from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid as well as Finance Committee chairman Baucus.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Monday he believed the Senate would look beyond Daschle's tax mistakes and approve the person Obama believes will do the best job of cutting costs and providing better health care for Americans.

Daschle was the second Obama nominee to encounter tax problems while seeking confirmation in the Senate. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner had to pay \$34,000 in owed taxes and faced intensive questioning in the Senate before he was confirmed.

New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, another Obama-pick chosen to head the commerce department, withdrew his name from consideration in January in the face of a legal inquiry.

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Rough Economy Turns Out Scammers

BY CLAUDIA BUCK
McClatchy Newspapers

When it comes to investment fraud, the perpetrators chase the news.

After 9/11, it was phony anti-terrorism technology. During the housing boom, it was real estate scams. A year ago, it was "green technology" windfalls. Today, amid a financially stressed economy, it's "prime bank" and other high-yield, quick-money quackery.

"They always seem to mirror economic times. They exploit whatever's current," said Kevin Baker, head of the FBI's white-collar crime squad in Sacramento, Calif.

And while none approach the heft of the current Bernard Madoff scandal that has wiped out billions from trusting investors around the world, Baker says Ponzi schemes and other investing scams are running so rampant that his 25 or so agents can't keep up.

Baker's agents go after only the most egregious cases, typically those that have cost victims at least \$1 million in total losses. That includes several local cases now under active investigation.

The FBI doesn't maintain data on investment fraud as it does on mortgage fraud, which is often reported by banks and lenders. But in the Sacramento field office, which covers Central California between Bakersfield and Redding, Baker said reports of investment fraud have "significantly and noticeably increased since the economy has weakened."

Likewise, officials at the California Department of Corporations say the rocky economy is playing into the hands of fraudsters.

"People



Bill Kostrzewski, an assistant state's attorney in the Miami-Dade economic crime unit, takes down an illegal sign near his office building.

who aren't normally susceptible to pitches for (risky financial) products may be more so than a year ago," said Andrew Roth, who oversees financial fraud education for the department. "It's more true of seniors and close-to-retirement folks because they have less time to weather the financial storm."

That's why many can fall prey to "high-yield" scams that try to entice investors with promises of better-than-bank returns.

The FBI says scammers use the same methods, regardless of whether they're peddling real estate, gold bars or new technology. These include slick promotional brochures, touting great returns; official-looking prospectuses, financial filings and pending patents; and aggressive salespeople, known as "promoters," who are paid up to 40 percent in commission, making them highly motivated.

In one case, Baker said, a potential investor came to the Sacramento offices of a phony investment company, asking to see evidence of its "facial recognition" software. To accommodate him, the fraudsters scrambled to download some crude software off the Internet and

line up a conference room. They were convincing. The investor, apparently the only one who bothered to request a demonstration, handed over \$200,000.

To avoid becoming a victim, here are some tips from law enforcement, public officials and investing watchdogs: be skeptical; do your research on the individual and the companies; get second opinions.

"A crooked adviser can turn your nest egg into a goose egg overnight and leave you destitute," said Don Blandin, CEO and president of Investor Protection Trust, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that promotes investor education.

Blandin, who recommends checking on a financial adviser's credentials, follows his own advice. Just last week, he said, a colleague recommended a Florida adviser as a conference speaker. When Blandin plugged the adviser's name into the SEC's database, he discovered the "highly recommended" adviser had failed a few financial exams, been fired from two jobs and fined by regulators.

Even someone "who seems wonderfully nice," said Blandin, "may not be

any good or worse."

The FBI's Baker said victims of investment fraud cross all income, education and age ranges. "We've got doctors who are victims; we've got plumbers who are victims."

The common denominator, he said, is that they drop their guard, become too trusting or are too reluctant to appear ignorant and don't ask the probing questions.

"No investment is so hot that you can't take 24 or 48 hours to make sure it's legitimate and the person has the appropriate licensing to offer it," said Roth, with the California's Corporations Department. He advised discussing a potential investment with someone who has nothing to gain, your CPA or "even a neighbor whose judgment you trust. It can really make a difference."

The best prevention is arming yourself with information.

As Blandin urges investors: "Don't just be scared about the news on scams. Get angry and commit to become a wise and safe investor."



By The Way...

We're Not Going Anywhere

BY LINSEY ISAACS
Asst. Campus Editor

This past week, *The Hilltop* has endured perhaps the worst criticism we've received this year by far—and it wasn't the most constructive.

Between Facebook videos and ugly comments on our online edition, it seems as though our readers are sincerely dissatisfied with the content we provide them on a daily basis.

Although I'd like to defend the paper that drove me and many others to come to Howard in the first place, I'd rather bring awareness to the fact that our industry as a whole is struggling to survive—and declare that we aren't going anywhere.

It's a scary reality, but *The Hilltop* is not the only paper in the world facing budgeting issues.

We are clearly in a recession, and one economist even predicted we'd see a depression very soon. Last year in October, *Cosmo Girl* folded its print issue, and although they're maintaining an online edition for their readers, it wasn't a decision that their publisher, *Hearst Magazines*, wanted to make.

This week, the *L.A. Times* cut 300 jobs, 70 of which were in the newsroom alone. The largest paper on the West Coast of the United States is experiencing financial issues and is trying to pull themselves out of debt, as they consolidated sections, and relinquished their local news portion of the paper.

Times have changed, and advertisers are more willing to pay less for online ads than supporting the print industry, especially if our readers are gravitating away from newspapers.

The financial issues we're having at *The Hilltop* extend beyond our collegiate newsroom and are affecting a historic norm. Picking up a newspaper every morning and reading it from front to back may easily be replaced with Googling news and the top headlines.

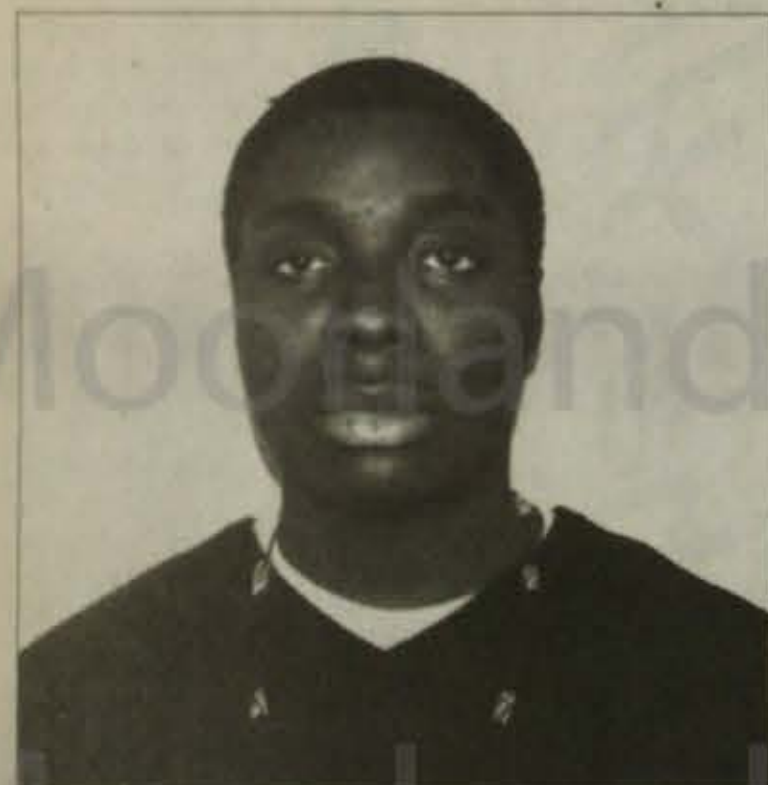
Despite these scares, newspaper executives banded together last week to launch a project that would increase the efforts to be more innovative in our delivery of news. And they rejected the notion that there would be no future for the print industry. Sacrifices will be made in the field, as we've seen through numerous papers cutting back on costs. But there are many things we can do to increase our readership.

One thing we stress in our office is accountability; we are each held accountable for the content we provide and the dissatisfaction of our readers. But, perhaps if our audience could grasp a better understanding of our conditions, while our own collective efforts to improve the paper expanded, things would run more smoothly.

With little funding and a short staff, *The Hilltop* tries its best to keep the integrity and history of the paper while serving the student body. And that means that, despite a lackluster budget, there is no option of going back to biweekly or anything less than daily, as many students have suggested. We've made strides to get to where we are now, and like some of the top papers in the nation, are struggling to survive. But, just like these top papers, we aren't going anywhere. And we'll be better.

Financial Swagger

recession edition



Bryant Brown soph. political science.
On spending: "All I buy is food, music and books, other than that..." so with savings, "I don't spend money, that's how I save."
Dealing With Recession: "For the recession, I'm OK because I don't have any assets that will depreciate in value."



Shirley Short East Towers Lobby Monitor
On spending: "I spend my money on rent, bills and transportation, and then it's gone." With saving, "I can't save because things are too expensive!"
Dealing With Recession: "I don't have another choice other than to deal with the recession, can't change it now."



Courtney Mims soph. broadcast Journ.
On spending: "I only spend money on things that I absolutely need," and on saving, says, "I save by spending less, which can be difficult at times."
Dealing With Recession: "The recession has recently started affecting my spending and it really put a stop to my shopping."



Geoffrey Witherspoon soph. legal comm.
On spending: "I'm Broke!" With the cost of living increasing and the demand for money rising, it's nearly impossible for me to get a good job. "To save money, I eat in the Café."
Dealing With Recession: No comment on recession.



Maquita Eaton soph. broadcast Journ.
On spending: "I spend my money on food and toiletries," Savings? "As far as saving, I put the majority of my paycheck in savings and a little in checkings to live off of."
Dealing With Recession: "With the recession, I don't really spend just buy what I need."



This Could Be You!
Talk about your spending, savings, and how you're dealing with recession.

- Compiled by Cierra Jones, Copy Editor

STILL
SEEKING
WRITERS

D.C. Residents Seek Congressional Voice

BY JASON SCRUGGS
Contributing Writer

In 2007, just after then-Illinois Senator Barack Obama announced his candidacy for president, he publicly announced in Washington that upon entering office, he would be an advocate for D.C. Congressional voting rights. Two years later, and with Obama now as the 44th president, some remain skeptical about his ability to bring about real change for the District.

"Although I really don't think it will happen anytime soon," said Nakoshie Mills, a sophomore political science major, "but it's OK to dream sometimes."

As a D.C. native, Mills knows first hand just what lack of representation means.

"I was in D.C.'s public school system my whole life. I grew up not too far from Howard," Mills said. "Buildings were run down; the schools were run down, and it seemed like the government didn't pay too much attention until whites moved into the area. Then things started to change."

Securing voting rights for D.C. could be the beginning of solving some of D.C.'s major problems. Although Mills is an Obama supporter, she is one of many who has opted to keep a realistic perspective about his abilities as president.

"I don't think Obama is going to make a massive change, at least not the way he promoted it in his campaign," Mills said.

With the ongoing loss of jobs and two wars overseas, voting rights for Washingtonians may not exactly be top priority. However, one way to facilitate this effort is to raise awareness. According to a poll on behalf of D.C. Vote, an advocacy organization founded in 1998, "more than 80 percent of Americans are unaware that D.C. residents are denied a vote in Congress."



To date, although the District of Columbia has a delegate to represent them in Congress, D.C. residents do not have a vote in Congress.

Currently, D.C. is granted a delegate to represent its citizens in Congress. The delegate can vote in committee and draft legislation but does not have full voting rights. With over a half million people residing in the District, congressional representation can positively impact the lives of residents of the city.

The District has one of the highest crime rates in the country, not to men-

tion an intransigently high HIV/AIDS rate that disproportionately affects black women. Other areas of concern are the District's public schools and facilities.

"Have you seen D.C.'s public library? It's horrible," Mills said. "They have stuff in there from the '70s. There are homeless people in there, dust everywhere; it's just a mess!"

But there is some hope. As recent

as Tuesday, there was a hearing held in Congress regarding D.C. voting rights and advocates of this issue remain optimistic about its success.

"I am confident the bill will be met with great support in the House of Representatives," D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty said.

Long Wait for MLK Memorial on National Mall

BY TILESIA BROWN
Contributing Writer

The memorial dedicated to the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is on the list of things to do in Washington, D.C. While residents and visitors await the erection of the historic monument, most are wondering just what is taking so long.

The National Capital Planning Commission and The Commission of Fine Arts gave permission for the building of the monument on the National Mall in December 1999. Now, in 2009, the task is still left incomplete.

"It saddens me that it is taking them so long to build a memorial for a man who has been such a great influence to our country and the black community as a whole," said Jasmine Tate, a junior psychology major.

Over the past decade, multiple tasks have been in the process of being fulfilled for the project. These tasks include program development, site selection, international design competition, the design process, commission design review and approval.

The last step before construction will be to submit the application for a building permit. Twenty days after this permit is issued to the foundation, the work on the monument will commence.

"This is the normal time span for the design and development of a memorial project to be placed on the National Mall," said Harry E. Johnson Sr., the

foundation's president and CEO.

The map plan sits the prospective monument directly between the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial to complete a "line of leadership" on the Mall. Its design allots four acres for the memorial to rest upon when it is ready to stand.

According to the foundation's Web site, the monument will serve "to com-

memorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by leading a collaborative funding, design and construction process in the creation of a memorial to honor his national and international contributions to world peace through non-violent social change."

According to Johnson, the total fundraising goal for the construction and maintenance of this project is \$120 mil-

lion, of which \$104 million has already been raised.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Foundation urges readers to visit the Web site, www.BUILDTHEDREAM.org, to make a contribution to the memorial fund. This will enable supporters to say they had a hand in building history.

"Now is the time, as we have a true sense of urgency in raising the remaining \$16 million needed to complete this historic project," said Trudy Byrd, Public Relations Manager of the MLK Memorial Foundation. "Every person who contributes any donation amount will have their name listed at the Memorial as a 'Founding Sponsor.'"

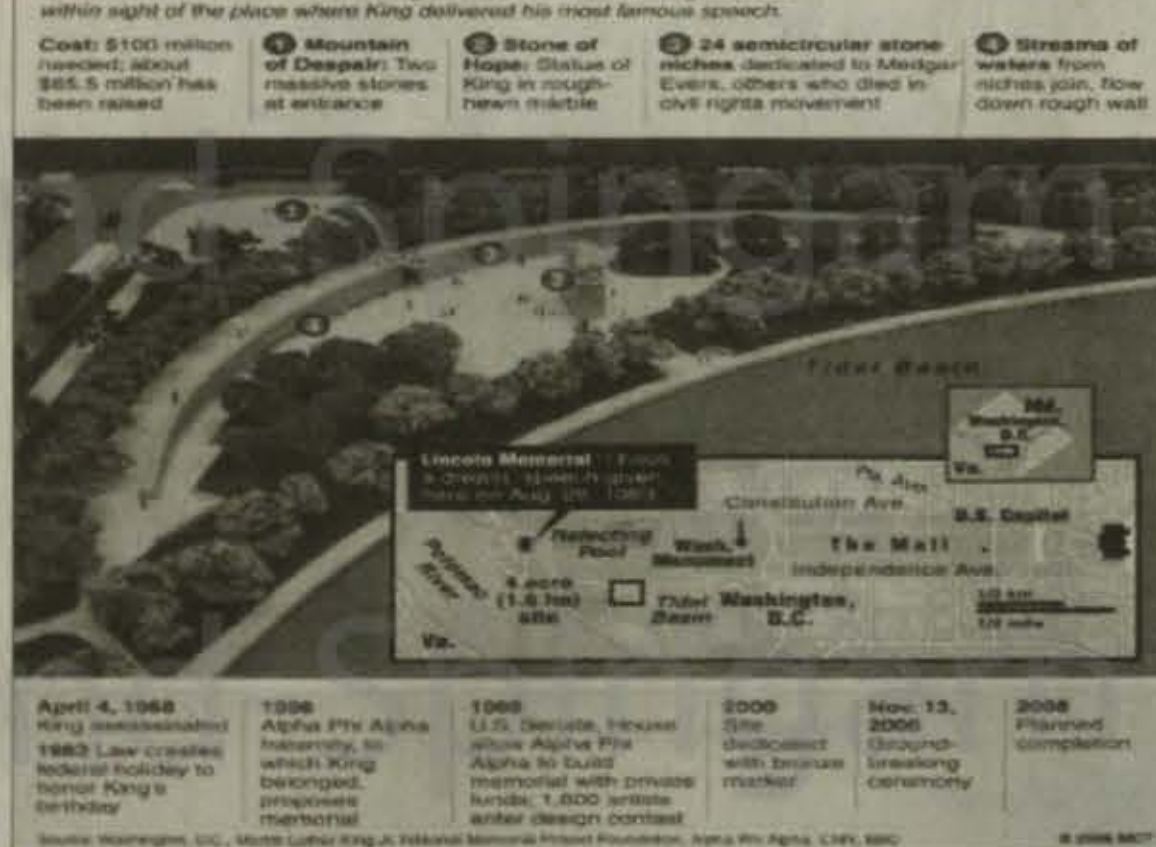
For Tate, taking over a decade to finish a project is unacceptable, but others understand that such an important process should be given all the time that it needs to be efficient.

"I can see where people's frustrations lie when it comes to length of time, but something as permanent as a memorial in our nation's Capitol shouldn't be rushed," said Avery Green, a senior advertising major. "However, I do think there should also be a status update to the public so they can know the plans."

The MLK Memorial Foundation employees share the same sentiments as Green. According to the office of the foundation, they are currently looking to schedule a date of completion in Summer 2010.

King memorial in Washington

A memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be built in Washington, D.C., within sight of the place where King delivered his most famous speech.



The MLK Memorial will be located between the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial.

Prince George's County Set to Close a Dozen Schools

BY BRITNEY BREWINGTON
Contributing Writer

In an effort to save \$11.9 million in the Prince George's County school system, school officials announced the proposal to close 12 schools in the area. If the proposal passes, changes would take effect next school year.

According to the proposal, 11 elementary schools are affected, as well as a middle school, G. Gardner Shugart in Temple Hills. Most of the schools are located inside of the Capital Beltway of Prince George's County, Md. Six other schools would transform into five schools with one of them, Benjamin D. Foulis Elementary in Morningside, operating as a performing arts school. Another one of the schools would house students from pre-kindergarten to the eighth grade.

The school district plans to keep the empty schools and even proposes using the buildings for special programs. Currently, some areas are lacking special programs and the School Board aims at giving them adequate attention.

"In order to better utilize space, we have proposed a consolidation of 12

schools that can possibly allow us to open some of the schools to host new and innovative programs in areas that have never had them before," said John White, spokesperson for the school district. "We might even transform some of the schools to pre-kindergarten to eighth grade, which the community has voiced they would like to see added."

The schools are targeted due to under enrollment and many are under capacity. Some are even suffering from low academic performances and need many physical building improvements. Shugart Middle has suffered from academic issues, while only 35 percent of the students can perform on their grade

levels in math.

"I'm kind of disappointed in this proposal," said Elaine Hildebrandt, whose grandson attends one of the closing schools in Landover, Md. "I understand financially it might make sense, but these

"I'm kind of disappointed in this proposal. I understand financially it might make sense, but these kids are used to going to school in their neighborhoods."

-Elaine Hildebrandt

The plan is included in the \$1.68 billion school budget proposal that will save the district an estimated \$106 million in cuts that will eliminate about 900 jobs. These cuts will affect many associated with the school system, including teachers, educational specialists and even custodians. An estimated 900 positions will be eliminated if this

plan is passed.

It has not been decided what will happen to those teachers and other professionals associated with the job cuts. Some will be moved to vacant positions at other schools, while others will be laid off. The current proposal will eliminate 12 principals, 10 assistant principals and 36 teachers.

Research by school officials revealed some schools were up to 60 percent below their state-rated capacities. The early results prompted Interim Superintendent William R. Hite Jr. to propose the closing of six schools last month, which would have saved them \$5.6 million. However, the number has now been moved to 12, after realizing that more schools met that specified criteria.

Prince George's School system has faced this similar problem. From 1976 to 1986, the district closed 65 schools.

Officials say public hearings are currently being scheduled and the community will be informed as to when they can voice their feedback. "We're in the process now of scheduling community meetings to get the residents feedback," White said.

Metro Briefs

Reviving the Washington Waterfront

South of the D.C. Armory and right above the Congressional Cemetery lies the Hill East development, a 67-acre plot of land adjacent to the Anacostia river. This large area, which remains undeveloped, is one of four other main development projects aimed at rejuvenating the District's prime waterfront real estate.

Four major development teams have already explained how they plan to rebuild the region to residents of the surrounding Capitol Hill community. Though every team plans to include both residential and commercial buildings, in addition to other medical and recreational facilities, and also some open outdoor space. Each have a very different vision.

Mayor Fenty plans to pick a development team by the beginning of spring. All those involved in the project hope that the economy will have improved by the time construction is set to begin.

A City Held in Contempt

Marcia Robinson Lawry, the director of Children's Rights, recently filed a motion of contempt against the Fenty administration. According to Lawry, the administration has thwarted vital court reforms necessary for the protection of children in the District of Columbia. The filing of this motion could result in the federal government completely assuming control over the District's Child and Family Services Agency.

A plan to improve the faulty agency has already been filed with Judge Thomas F. Hogan, but many believe that it will take more than is being planned to make the necessary reforms.

Missing 11-Year-Old Returns Home Unharm

On Jan. 22, an 11-year-old girl from Silver Springs, Md., went missing. As last reported, Jennifer Zelaya was seen walking towards the Westfield Shopping Plaza in Wheaton. She was headed there after school with a few friends.

Montgomery County Police do not believe Zelaya was abducted. Instead, they suspect she ran away. More than a week after being away, Zelaya returned to her home on Jan. 30. She came back unharmed, but her whereabouts are unknown.

Catholic Univ. Suffers Virus Outbreak

Catholic University is currently experiencing an outbreak of the norovirus. Since Jan. 21, 36 cases have been reported by students. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the virus causes acute gastroenteritis, otherwise known as the stomach flu. Symptoms include vomiting, stomach cramping and nausea.

The students affected by the virus lived in on-campus housing at the university and have received treatment. This is the second incident of the norovirus outbreak for Catholic since 2006.

*-Compiled by Leah Kimble,
Contributing Writer &
Geni Lake, Staff Writer*



TRUE LIFE:
Get Ugly

BY ALEESA MANN
Life & Style Editor

For two and a half seasons I've watched the ABC comedy-drama "Ugly Betty" as the titular character helplessly, more like haplessly, pawed her way through the magazine industry.

I followed the series as Betty Suarez, with all the grace of a bull in a China cabinet, awkwardly became a burgeoning force at "Mode," a fictional women's fashion magazine. And now, ABC is putting the kibosh on the one reason I ever turn on my TV.

From the end of March until June, "Betty" is being replaced by "Samantha Who?" a show that doesn't even know what it's about, and "In the Motherhood," which sounds like airtime for a lot of Pull-Ups and Gerber Baby food commercials.

But the larger question is, what's happening to network TV? Growing up, I turned on the boob tube to watch "Doug" in his adventures as Quailman and "Dinosaurs" to watch a family that would have been otherwise normal if they weren't dinosaurs.

Pretty much, any show was fair game as long as it allowed me to kickback, relax and laugh; values which seem to be misplaced in this era of reality TV. These days, shows are bent on seeming so real that the only thing they really are, are fake, parodies of themselves.

For me, that was "Betty's" saving grace. The show is so over the top, so ridiculous, so dramatic and that's the way it was meant to be. There aren't any pretenses; "Betty" is an escape from the banalities of "real" TV about "real" people.

Where else could you find Alexis Meade, a brother-turned sister-turned power-hungry magazine editor and Marc St. James and Amanda, a tag-team assistant duo that spits out mean girl clichés as if it was their second language? Not on the snooze fest that is "The Bachelor."

When I turn on the TV, I expect to be entertained by impossible love triangles and the story of a surrogate mother nurturing the seed of the late media mogul Bradford Meade, for his former lover Wilhemina Slater, a vengeful executive plotting to steal the Meade family's fortune, not bored to death by a house full of women with no inhibitions who vie for the attention of a man with no personality.

But even with all the ludicrous plotlines, there were subplots in "Betty" that communicated real issues prevalent in today's society: "Betty" addresses racism, immigration and social class, all the while beckoning the question, "Can anyone pull off a plaid skirt, floral shirt, striped vest work suit?"

So what's going on? On a network that welcomes Saturday mornings with syndicated episodes of "That's So Raven" and her futuristic visions, why can't it equally embrace "Betty" and her telenova drama?

"Betty" isn't raffling off a chance at love, but in a time when the economy is receding and tuition is rising, it offers 60 minutes of fashion faux pas and mindless self-indulgence.

Better Memory Performance a Matter of Diet, Exercise

BY ZARIA POEM
Contributing Writer

With the arrival of a new year, many people are starting fresh by committing themselves to newly-made resolutions and are now frequenting gyms, adhering to stricter diets, and are generally making healthier lifestyle choices. However, in the midst of becoming physically fit, many individuals oftentimes neglect their most vital organ—the brain.

In light of diseases like Alzheimer's, the phrase "use it or lose it" takes on a whole new meaning. Alzheimer's, an irreversible and slowly progressive brain disease, is currently the fourth-leading cause of death in America's elderly reports the Centers for Disease Control. According to the National Institute on Aging (NIA), the disease is hastily spreading, plaguing about 2.4 to 4.5 million in the United States alone.

Dr. Barry Bittman, medical director of the Mind-Body Wellness Center, suggests that the earlier a person works to improve their memory, their chances of inhibiting and delaying the onset of memory loss and mental illnesses will be even greater.

"A few minutes of challenging mental exercise each day just might help preserve what we cannot afford to lose," Bittman said. "Our mind is too precious to waste. It's not too late to nurture one of our most precious gifts."

Along with a proper diet, exercise, and stress reduction activities, Bittman strongly encourages daily "mental workouts." Certain foods and various board games, crossword puzzles and word search activities have all been linked to help increase and improve memory.

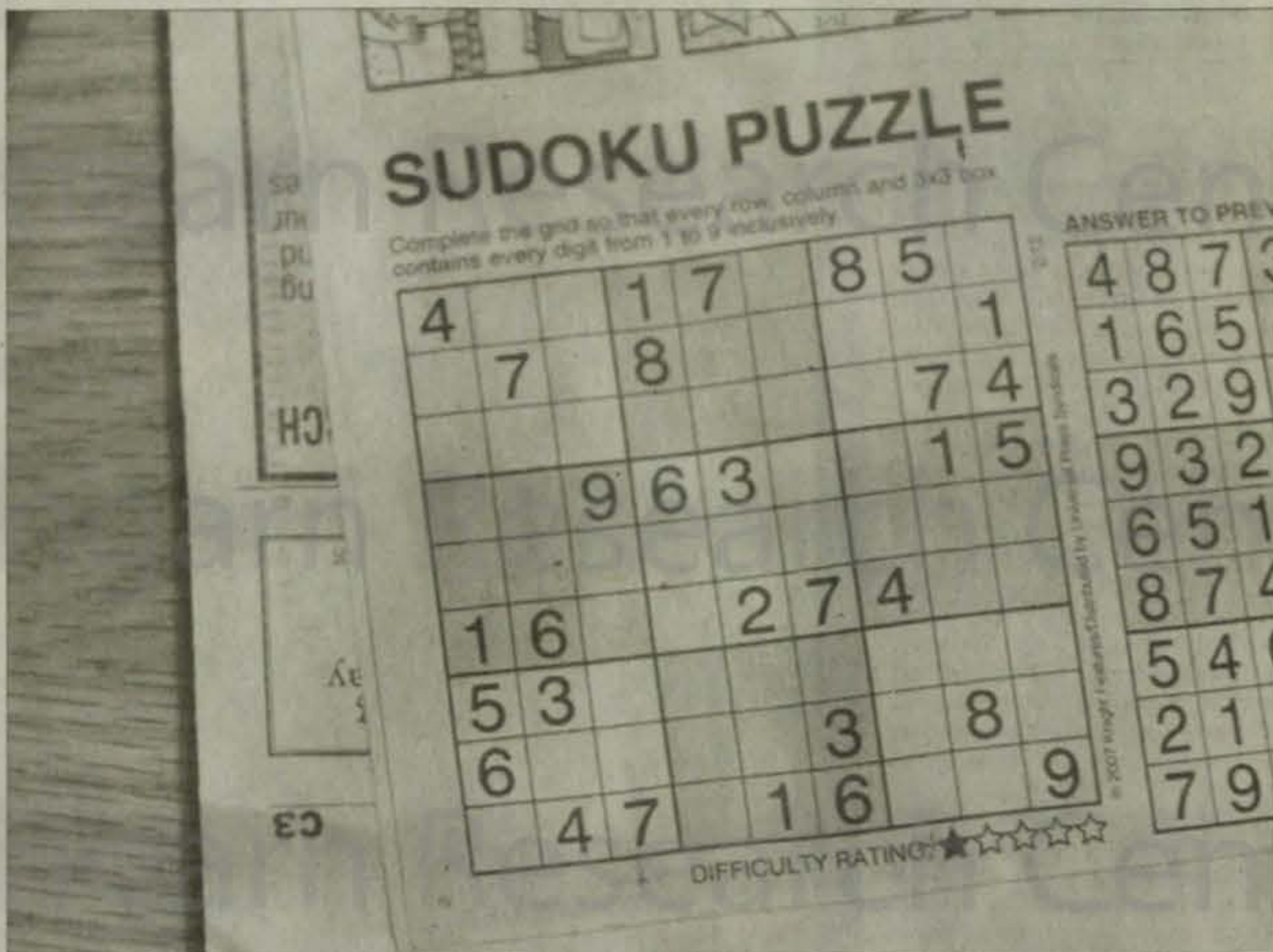
Health Diaries, an online health forum, reported that foods that are red or purple in color contain the brain-boosting phytochemical, anthocyanin. Fruits such as blueberries, apples and grapes contain high levels of anthocyanin and quercetin, an antioxidant shown to protect against Alzheimer's disease. Vegetables like spinach, onions and beets are rich in folic acid, which acts as an insulator for brain cell membranes.

The forum also states that fish such as Salmon and Herring, along with walnuts, almonds and flax seeds all have substantial amounts of Omega-3 fatty acids, unsaturated acids which are beneficial for the heart and mind.

"I try to incorporate healthy foods into my diet as much as I can," said Sadia Thomas, a sophomore graphic design major. "When I can afford to shop at organic markets, I tend to do so. Once you begin eating foods that are good for you, the difference is noticeable. You feel better and perform better as well."

"Sudoku, a Japanese logic-based puzzle, is another well-known method used to help improve memory," said Dr. Cynthia R. Green, author of "Total Memory Workout."

The puzzle consists of a nine by nine grid with three by three boxes. The



Chris Butler - Idaho Statesman (MCT)

Sudoku and other puzzles are said to help with memory improvement. They are sometimes used to deal with brain injuries and strokes.

objective of the game is to fill each column, row and box only once with a number ranging from one to nine.

Aside from being widely available in newspapers, Sudoku puzzles are now gaining popularity online, are being sold

I think it can be really helpful," said Bianca Ashley, a sophomore political science major. "But recently, I have been more interested in the iPhone's 'Brain Toot' application. Since my phone is with me at all times, it has become more convenient.

sics major. "Besides writing everything down in a planner, I exercise often too. Whether it's Yoga or running, I almost always have a clear mind afterwards and can focus more."

Dr. Eva Stephens, Associate Professor and Family Nurse Practitioner in the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Health Sciences, believes that the most beneficial solution to a healthy body and spirit is to maintain a healthy diet, to exercise, and to surround one's self around positive individuals.

"I recommend eight hours of sleep per day for everyone. It is important to eat three meals per day, including breakfast," said Stephens. "The heaviest meal should be lunch. You should also be mindful to limit foods high in fat and carbohydrates."

According to Stephens, common herbs and supplements used to promote energy and memory are St. John's Wort, Kava root and Ginkgo, but acknowledges there is no scientific proof that these complimentary alternative medicines improve health.

"Also, there are no FDA regulations on these medicines because they are distributed as supplements and vitamins; therefore, the purity of these medicines are unknown since there are so many manufacturers of the product," said Dr. Stephens.

Instead of taking medicines, Stephens recommends exercising 30 to 40 minutes everyday and maintaining healthy relationships in order to remain healthy and mentally fit.

"Our mind is too precious to waste. It's not too late to nurture one of our most precious gifts."

- Dr. Barry Bittman, medical director, Mind-Body Wellness Center,

in books, and are even being used in hospitals.

Patients who have suffered from a stroke or other brain injuries are sometimes given daily Sudoku puzzles to help with cognitive therapy. The *New York Times* reported that since the puzzle's reintroduction in 2005, the sales of Sudoku games have risen substantially.

Brain Age, a popular video console game was first introduced in 2005. The game, which is compatible with Nintendo DS handhelds, contains various tests dealing with counting, calculating and memorization.

"I've played 'Brain Age' before and

Ashley has found that 'Brain Toot' helps improve her memory and skills in areas such as math, comprehension and critical thinking.

According to research conducted by The Social Cognitive Laboratory at North Carolina State University, writing on a daily basis can improve attention and the ability to concentrate. Cognitive psychologists refer to these abilities as 'working memory' and have found scientific evidence that working memory leads to better grades, especially in college students.

"To help me improve my memory, I usually write down what I have to do," said Whitney Hosten, a sophomore clas-

Dry Mouths are Breeding Grounds for Bad Breath

BY JENERRA C. ALBERT
Staff Writer

While eating fish and chips may lead to a strong case of bad breath, brushing one's teeth isn't always the end all for breath that can kill a conversation faster than you can say 'hello.' For many people, bad breath goes beyond what they ate for lunch.

According to WebMD, bad breath has numerous sources, but in most cases, it is caused from the build-up of bacteria on the tongue or the gums. After eating foods like garlic and onion, these particles hang onto your tongue and eventually absorb, causing the smell to expel strongly from the mouth.

Using mouthwash and gum will only mask the stench until it is eliminated from the bloodstream.

"It's sometimes funny how reliable people are on gum when it really isn't the solution to bad breath," said Kyle Gibson, a freshman supply chain management major. "It's just a temporary fix and some people think that the smell is gone when everyone around them knows it's not."

Brushing, flossing and using mouthwash are important steps in maintaining clean and fresh breath, but these activities only scratch the surface in preventing bad breath.

Dental Hygienist Vanessa Blakely says that

not eating, dry mouth, and colds and infections are major contributors to bad breath.

"So many patients come in claiming that they are keeping up with their brushing and flossing, which I'm sure is true, but there is so much more that they are forgetting to do and that's why they have bad breath," said Blakely.

Blakely explained that dry mouths often lead to bad breath because of the lack of saliva, which is designed to wash away bacteria and cleanse the mouth. Mouth-breathing, snoring and asthma all dry out the mouth preventing saliva from doing its job.

"This allows bacteria to remain inside the mouth not being washed away and exuding bad breath," said Blakely.

Blakely explains that, bronchitis, sinus infections and common colds can cause nasal fluids to remain stuck in the throat causing mouth odor. One way to combat bad breath is eating which stimulates the saliva.

Sophomore marketing major, Claudia Ukoum feels it is important to know what it takes for healthy breath beyond brushing one's teeth.

"I think it's just important that people are educated about it because for some people, certain things are not the obvious when it comes to bodily fluids," she said.



Gum and mints will only mask bad breath; regular dental check-ups to get a cleaning will help with fresh breath.

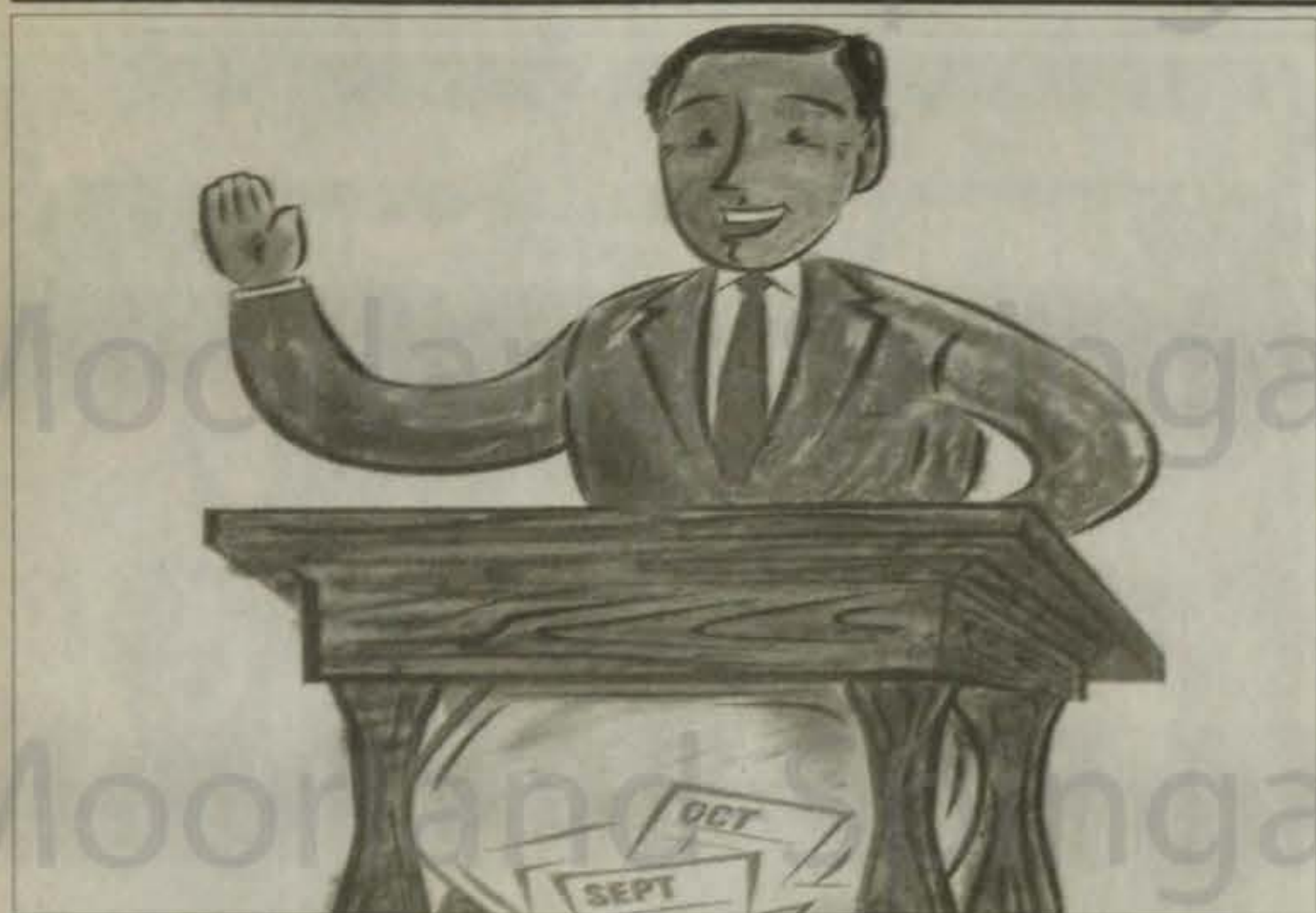
5 Tips for Fresh Breath

1. Floss. If you brush your teeth daily, then you should be flossing daily as well.
2. Brush at least twice a day. Proper brushing includes lips, tongue, cheek and the roof of your mouth.

3. Get frequent cleanings. Go to the dentist office once every three to four months.
4. Stop alcohol and tobacco use. These two habits can contribute to bad breath.

5. Use antibacterial mouth wash. Swishing and gargling daily will kill bacteria deep in the mouth and throat.

- compiled by Jenerra C. Albert, staff writer



John Allen - The Fresno Bee (MCT)

Promises Should Be Upheld For 2009 Campaign Season

Now that election season has arrived, aspiring student-politicians are gearing up to tackle speak-outs and promote their campaign slates and slogans in hopes of receiving the majority student vote.

Whether or not you're running for class president or UGSA representative, 'tis the season to campaign, and with that being said, *The Hilltop* would like to express some expectations that we hold for current and future student government leaders.

Any current student or alumni should understand the ins and outs of Howard politics and although the political nature of our school has produced historic protests and causes, sadly, some students only run to build their resumes or increase their popularity on campus.

If you do not have a sincere interest in the betterment of this institution, then why waste your time being bothered with the duties of a committed student government leader?

Howard students have never been afraid to complain about certain displeasing aspects of the

university, but back in the day, students also worked to ensure that these issues were resolved. Nowadays, our administration gets away with too much, partially because we do not hold them accountable. Last semester, HUSA President

platforms. We understand candidates become excited about their future plans, but students running for office should not include anything in their platforms that they know is unattainable.

Candidates are more likely to be endorsed if their platforms are feasible.

Do not present a platform that you cannot fulfill. This applies to all students running for office, not just HUSA candidates, because once you are elected you are expected to follow through with your promises just the same.

This is an exciting year for blacks and other minorities in politics, and Howard is a cornerstone of black politics. We should strive to model our student government organizations based off of what we would like to see in our national government.

We expect for our local, national and global leaders to be accountable, so we should expect the same from our student leaders.

The Hilltop is looking forward to an exciting and competitive election season and we wish all candidates the best of luck. Bring your 'A' game!

Our View:

Students running for office should present realistic platforms and follow up with their outlined promises.

Nicholas Owen was successful in getting the purge date pushed back so that students could have more time to get validated. That type of leadership produces results, and although there are many things that have been left undone, future leaders should work to produce those types of results.

Last year, *The Hilltop* chose not to endorse a HUSA slate because the editorial board did not feel as if any of the candidates would be able to follow through with the promises outlined in their

Perspective

It's a Thin Line Between Love and Hate

Over the course of the past week, I have been awakening to check my Facebook just to see who had commented on a video that a friend of mine made. This video was written about in the Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009 edition of *The Hilltop* by editor Mercia Williams, entitled "Hilltop Haters." I, as a commentator and "intellectual," read the article with zeal, only to find that the article in and of itself was slanted.

Firstly, anything I say/have said about *The Hilltop* has been out of love — not hate — out of love for the potential it has and the usefulness that it can serve. This paper was the meat and potatoes of my Howard diet my freshman and sophomore years. However, as I've gotten older and more critical, this meat has become increasingly lean. It began to lack the punch and relevance which was the penchant of my palate. It lacked articles that commanded attention. So, I gradually phased *The Hilltop* out of my diet.

However, catalyzed by the discussion, I decided over the course of the past week to reinvest myself in *The Hilltop*, reading it from pillar to post. I must admit *The Hilltop* is better than I had been led to believe in my readership abstention. Curiously, I did note the lack of "contribut-

ing writers" in the majority of the articles that *The Hilltop* chose to publish, as well as the great deal of outsourcing done. I'm not here to argue with anyone on *The Hilltop* staff and their reasoning for not featuring "contributing writers" a.k.a. regular students. But, it does beg the question, is there room for them?

The meaningful criticisms, observations and suggestions for improvement were lampooned in that article. Some of the more valid included reducing *The Hilltop* to a tri-weekly publication, obtaining a White House press pass, increasing the publication's online presence and taking advantage of the active Howard blogosphere/"notosphere" by inviting more writers to take part in *The Hilltop*. "Haterific?" I think not.

Crucial questions here are, "What are the things that *The Hilltop*, realistically, needs to succeed?" and "What is it that we can do to help *The Hilltop*?" These salient questions were met with rhetoric and cries of "you just don't understand." If I don't understand, please help me and the rest of the campus to do so.

The most "gear-grinding" part about the article is the mis-construing of direct, active interest as "hate." It is no secret here that

The Hilltop often suffers from bouts of "run-on-itis," "this-isn't-quite-a-word-osis," and "isn't-there-a-something-missing" syndrome. We are all accountable for our productivity and our effort. Be it staff or student, everyone must do his or her job. No excuses.

It may be too optimistic, too hopeful, but, in this age of hope and change, we need to all step out on a limb and say: "We're here for you, *Hilltop*. We will support you." We cannot allow ourselves to fall victim to this "pass-the-buck-ism" that is sweeping the country.

All of us, every student, every faculty member, every alumni, every staff member, every employee, every friend of the university, have to firmly invest ourselves in the traditions and the legacy of this university. We cannot callously ignore the real inefficiencies here out of fear of reprisal or hurt feelings.

The honest love of truth has been ignored for too long at this university. We must honestly evaluate, assess and move forward, stronger for having finally stood out of ourselves to truly look at ourselves.

- DeMario Greene
senior, political science major

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

**Do you want to write for
The Hilltop?**

Come to our next budget meeting!

Sunday @ 6 p.m. in the West Towers

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THE HILLTOP

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

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

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

Do you have an opinion about something?

We'd like to hear from you!

**Submit your perspective to
hilltopeditorials@gmail.com**

Please include you major and classification!

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

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

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

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

The Society of Collegiate Black Men Present: Society Week 2009

Wednesday, February 4th
Anatomy of a Man: A Discussion on Manhood, Spirituality, and Health Panel
Discussion
Blackburn Digital Auditorium
7:17pm

Thursday, February 5th
A Night Out with The Society Meet and Greet
Blackburn Recreation Room
7:17 pm

Saturday, February 7th
Informational Session Founders' Library
Browsing Room
3: 17pm
Business Attire Required

Are you a beast on the mic?!
Audition for UGSA's Verbal Armageddon
Feb. 3
In room 148-150 of Blackburn Auditions from 6 pm- 9 pm

Alpha Delta Beta Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc. Presents Chi Week

Sunday, February 1, 2009
Call to Chapel Cramton Auditorium 10:32am

Tuesday, February 3, 2009
If I Knew Then, What I Know Now Nursing Building Room 124 7:32 pm

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Game Night Blackburn Game Room 7:32pm

Thursday, February 5, 2009
Informational Tea Dental School Auditorium 5th Floor 7:32pm

Friday, February 6, 2009
Movie Night TBA

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

Tuesday 23
Fat Tuesday: Over Indulging at HU Chemistry Auditorium 7:16 pm

The Ladies of Company G-8-5 The National Society of Pershing Angels Sorority Inc.

Invites You To: "Pillow Talk" February 3, 2008

"Meet -n- Greet" Business Attire February 4, 2009

All events will be held at 7pm in DGH B-14

Campaign Kick-Off. 2/4/09 @ Noon in the Punchout

HUSA and Undergraduate Trustee Debate. 2/4/09 @ 7 p.m. School of Business Auditorium

Stop by The Hilltop Office to purchase your very own Inaugural Commemorative Edition of The Hilltop! Limited number of copies left. Get yours today!!!

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.)



www.LivingQuilt.org

AMBI

UPTOWN

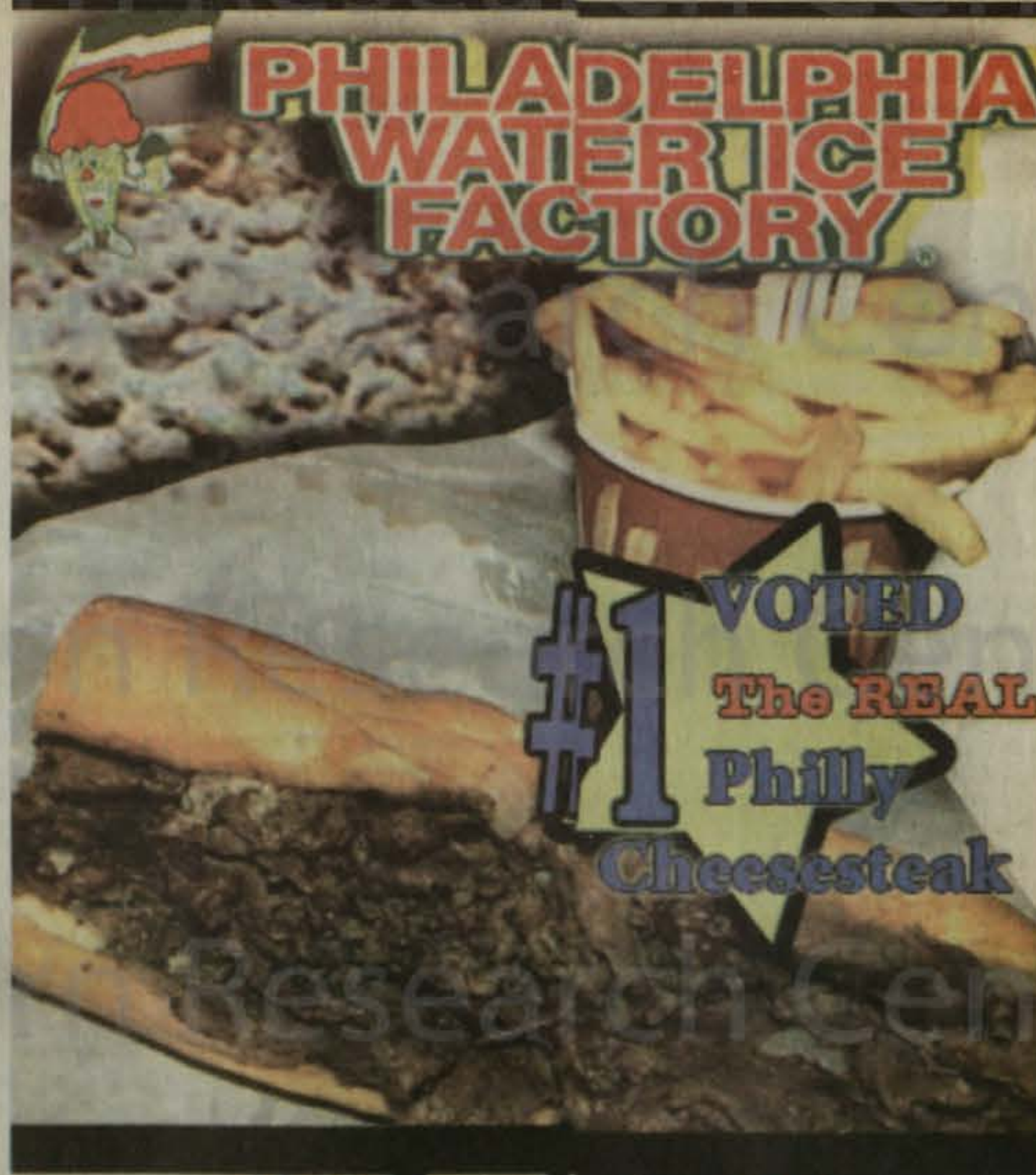
rag-it-up BET

For More Information, Contact

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jkwright1492@yahoo.com

202-213-8322



2620 Georgia Ave NW
(across from the school of business)
Mon-Friday 12-7pm
202-483-1429

50% off
on beef cheesesteak w/coupon.
exp 2/6