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THE HILLTOP

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Friday, February 6, 2009

Friday's Notebook

CAMPUS

FIND OUT WHAT WELL-KNOWN BOOK COMPANY IS OFFERING PAID INTERNSHIPS FOR THE SUMMER OF 2009.

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NATION & WORLD

AFRICANA STUDIES HAVE BEEN TAUGHT AT THE MECCA FOR 40 YEARS. FIND OUT WHAT THE KWAME TOURE SOCIETY HAS TO SAY.

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SPORTS

SEE WHICH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYERS SIGNED WITH DIVISION 1 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

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Miss Howard Needs More Votes from HU

BY DEONTAY MORRIS
Sports Editor

Junior biology major and Miss Howard 2009 Kendall Isadore is currently in the running for the third annual Miss Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC). Isadore will need more support than she's received thus far; she is currently in fourth place. Miss Morgan State is currently in the lead.

"I think Kendall being in the

Miss MEAC pageant is just continuing the tradition of our queens going down to North Carolina and showing the world the real HU and why we are the best HBCU," said Melech Thomas, Mr. Howard 2008-2009.

"As an institution, we have to continue the excellence," said Nicholas Owen, president of the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) and senior speech and applied communications major. "For the past two years, Howard

has won miss MEAC."

The theme for this year's competition is "The Complete Package: Beautiful Inside and Out." The winner will be announced at a ceremony on March 13, 2009 in Winston Salem, N.C.

Howard's lady Bison have had tremendous success in these competitions. Miss Howard 2006-2007 Assata Barton and Miss Howard 2007-2008 Brittany Brooks have won the last two Miss MEAC contests.

"It wasn't a win for me, it was a win for Howard," Barton said. "We went down in history as the first to win the Miss MEAC title."

There are only three weeks left to vote. Students can help Isadore win this tremendous honor by logging on to the Web site, rushmoredrive.com, and voting. The winner of the competition will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.



Kendall Isadore, Miss Howard 2008-2009.



Brian Johnson - Contributing Photographer
Maria Davis, left, was the keynote speaker at the symposium. Other speakers included Michael Eric Dyson, Ph.D., top, and actress Gina Ravera, bottom.

Student Organizations Finally Receive Funding

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

The checks are ready. That is the message that 111 of the 112 recognized student organizations received Wednesday, Feb. 4 to inform them that their fall 2008 allocations were ready for distribution.

After waiting approximately three months, student organizations will be able to hold programming, advertise events and renew student life on campus.

"We have \$0.00," said Kelli Johnson, president of Afya, the Swahili word for health and vitality. "We were hoping to get funding because last year we did not and had to come out of pocket for everything."

Unwilling to bear the financial burden for the organization's activities again, Afya applied for student organizational funding. They were allocated \$245.44 and have yet to see any of the money. They are the only organization to not receive their allocation.

According to William Cooper, associate controller of the Comptroller General Department, their check will be available today. According to Cooper, the delay in distribution was due to the department not having the required vendor set-up data in order to make payments.

"As with any financial obligation of Howard University, the office makes every effort to ensure that they are met in a timely manner," Cooper said. "When it comes to our students, this effort is more acute."

Yet the three-month delay "upset" Johnson because her organization was unable to hold programming last semester. Johnson said she does not understand why it took so long.

Howard University Student Association (HUSA) Financial Advisor Francis Roberts has been in constant contact with the service center to aid in the process of distributing the checks. In addition, he has personally called each organization throughout the process and on Wednesday to ensure that they were aware that the checks were ready.

Over the coming months, he will continue to work with the service center to ensure that this delay does not occur again.

"With the implementation of a new disbursement system, we have encountered some delays," he said. "We are currently reviewing our processes to ensure that our commitment to seamless and timely customer service to our students, campus and other customers is met."

Organizations may pick up their checks Monday-Thursday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the HUSA office.

A number of organizations have already picked up their checks, according to Roberts. They are free to use their checks on anything except miscellaneous activities, dues to national organizations, parties, transportation, member organizational shirts, prizes, salaries/stipends and programs for members only.

Receipts are required to ensure that the money is used on integral business dealings.

"We have \$0.00"

- Kelli Johnson, President of Afya

Hip-Hop Takes Over Blackburn

BY SIMONE BERRY
Contributing Writer

The voice of Michael Eric Dyson, Ph.D., shocked the Blackburn Center Ballroom yesterday as he preached on the importance of HIV/AIDS awareness at Howard's 4th Annual Hip-Hop and Higher Education Symposium.

The event was sponsored by the Howard University Health Center and the Substance Abuse HIV/AIDS Outreach Program (SHOP).

Dyson's fire and brimstone

methods of communicating HIV/AIDS awareness hit home for many, but everyone could hear his convicted heart as he pleaded for African Americans to be an active force in ending the epidemic.

"You have to get the test," Dyson said. "If you don't know and are living in fear and intimidation, you're spreading that fear if not the virus itself. This thing that ignorance is bliss is ridiculous. You have to dig deep, understand what the situation is in the context of your life and you have to confront the truth."

The theme "Yes We Can! Young Women United Against HIV/AIDS" drew a celebrity-studded panel featuring actress Gina Ravera, singer Mya, model Melyssa Ford and AIDS activist and survivor Maria Davis.

Students, faculty and members of the community gathered to learn about safe sex, the importance of getting tested for STDs and HIV regularly and to receive free giveaways from the vendors posted outside the ballroom.

> See **HIP-HOP**, page 2

HUSA Picks Up on Community Action

BY GENET LAKEW
Staff Writer

A group of about 10 concerned students, lawyers, community organizers and ordinary community members met to discuss ONE DC's major initiative of providing affordable housing to the immediate Shaw neighborhood and D.C. as a whole.

The Howard University Student Association (HUSA) is looking to expand its relationship with ONE DC by bringing more bodies from Howard to ONE DC, working as advocates for D.C. residents.

According to junior political science major and HUSA Community Outreach Director Morgan Thomas, Howard has been working with ONE DC since last semester.

ONE DC, which stands for "Organizing Neighborhood Equity," is a grassroots organization dedicated to

servicing the needs of low income, poor and immigrant communities in the district.

"ONE DC represents the community," said Dan Berkovits, a member. "That's the idea."

Community organizer Rosemary Ndubuiwu spearheaded the meeting.

To reach its goal of low income housing, ONE DC has secured a section of land dubbed Parcel 42. Planned to be the site of construction for such affordable apartment housing, Parcel 42 is located on 7th and R Streets, about two blocks from the Shaw Metro station.

ONE DC is currently working with various policy makers and D.C. government officials to actualize their goals.

One major aim is securing a solid relationship and formal tie with a developer company to finally begin con-

> See **ONEDC**, page 3



Etta James publicly addressed her disappointment in President Obama for requesting Beyonce Knowles over her to sing her signature song.

Etta James Lashes Out at Beyonce

BY NICK NELSON
Contributing Writer

Last Wednesday, during a performance at Seattle's Paramount Theater, blues legend Etta James showed both disdain and disapproval with singer Beyonce Knowles and President Barack Obama.

Referring to Knowles' rendition of James' signature love song "At Last," James can be heard on an audio clip that

surfaced on the Internet Wednesday, telling her audience, "You know that woman he had singing for him, singing my song? She's going to get her [expletive] whipped," to which a crowd responded with laughs and cheers.

James' rendition of "At Last" shot her to fame in 1961.

Of President Obama, James quipped, "You guys know your president, right? You know the one with the big ears?"

Wait a minute, he ain't my president. He might be yours; he ain't my president."

Though no statements have been released from Knowles or Obama, fans of all have been abuzz over James' outburst.

"She's silly for making that comment," said Marquel Russell, a sophomore finance major. "Maybe she did it

> See **AT LAST**, page 3

HIV-testing Offered at Hip-Hop Symposium



The panelists at the 4th annual hip-hop symposium included Howard alumna and radio personality Angle Ange, left, television personality Melyssa Ford, center, and actress Gina Ravera. The topic of discussion this year was black women and HIV/AIDS.

continued from FRONT, SUMMIT

The symposium offered free HIV testing conducted by the Howard Student Health Center in partnership with Whitman-Walker Clinic, Us Helping Us, Unity Health Care and several other community partners.

Sophomore management major George Johnson and freshman psychology major Xzania White were two students who took advantage of the free testing.

"It's important to know what's

going on with your body," White said. "Especially now being in an area where one in 20 African-Americans are affected by the diseases."

Johnson was not nervous about getting tested, but he just wanted to make sure that he spread the word about the free testing by text messaging his friends.

Carolyn R. Goode, Ph. D., Assistant Director for Health Education said he felt it was important to have as many students as possible get tested and be informed about HIV/AIDS.

"The goal was to increase awareness and inform people about this epidemic," Goode said.

One story that touched many students was that of 27-year-old Nairobi, a wife and mother. A native of Baltimore, Nairobi was diagnosed with HIV when she was 24. Her initial denial of the infection escalated her HIV into AIDS, but now Nairobi is taking her medication and living with AIDS, not dying with it.

My husband is currently HIV negative, Nairobi said, while speaking

at the town hall meeting. "You might think it's scary being around me, but you all can actually hurt me more than I can hurt you by giving me sickness that my immune system can't fight," Nairobi.

Nairobi is a Human Relations Coordinator at Sisters Together and Reaching (STAR), a non-profit women's community center in Baltimore, and a spokesperson for the Southern AIDS coalition and Southern AIDS Living Quilt.

HIV/AIDS hit home in a different way for Gina Ravera, one of the panelists who spoke at the town hall meeting held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

"My teachers are gone," Ravera stated with remorse. "The people who helped me become a dancer and an actress are not on this planet anymore."

Growing up in San Francisco Ravera was a witness to HIV/AIDS when it appeared to be a gay, white man's infection. Now, blacks and Latinos account for roughly 80 percent of reported cases of AIDS.

For panelist Maria Davis, the reason HIV/AIDS is such an epidemic in the African-American community is because "we've lost the love." Davis challenged audience members to love themselves enough to practice safe sex.

"If we keep going like this we're going to be extinct as African Americans," Davis said.

McGraw-Hill Enlightens, Offers Internships

BY SIMONE BERRY
Contributing Writer

For students and staff alike, the McGraw-Hill conglomerate is a familiar name that graces many textbooks and has been around for students year after year. On Thursday, nearly 30 students sat in the School of Business faculty lounge to learn more about the well-known companies and the purposes they serve.

The Chancellor Williams Historical Society hosted a discussion session entitled "Getting Paid: Internships for Summer 2009." The event is one of five African-American history programs being held until April.

The discussion gave students a chance to learn more about the McGraw-Hill companies as well as the importance of internships.

Gregory A. Parris, CPA, Senior Director of Finance for McGraw-Hill in New York, gave a thorough overview of the different branches of the company. Parris discussed the three groups of companies they had, including education, financial services and information and media.

Parris, whose daughter currently attends Howard and whose wife is an alumna, said he is very interested

in making sure that young African Americans are exposed to all the business opportunities.

"I'm doing my part and making sure I spread the word so that people can be involved and have as many opportunities as possible," Parris said.

For junior public relations major Chelsea Taylor, attending this African-American history program was a class activity, but she was ultimately glad she had the opportunity to participate in the session.

"I'm happy I went because it was very informative and I found out about a paid internship opportunity," Taylor said.

Senior Manager of Campus Relations Pamela Cole talked with students about the internships that the McGraw-Hill companies offer and went over what is important when applying for an internship.

"Howard University is one of our core schools and the only HBCU on [the] core schools list at McGraw-Hill," Cole said.

Internship applications that are from core schools allow recruiters to know the caliber of the university and better access the application.

Chancellor Williams Historical Society President Milea Pickett felt



Simone Berry - Contributing Writer

Howard is the only HBCU on McGraw-Hill's core list of schools for paid internships.

that the program went well and is a good way for history majors to grasp an idea of what career options they have.

"The Chancellor Williams Society was the oldest society on campus a couple years ago," Pickett said. "So as history majors we wanted to start

it back up and give students the opportunity to learn more about career outlets for history majors."

The Chancellor Williams Historical Society is hosting four more African-American History Programs this semester. All programs are free and open to everyone.

Introducing: Dean James Donaldson

BY SIMONE BERRY
Contributing Writer

Working on a farm in the blistering and humid weather is the main reason James Donaldson Ph. D, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, decided to escape from the sultry conditions of Madison County, Fla. and pursue his education at Lincoln University. His educational pursuit was a road less traveled by most, but the support of his family, friends and many mentors helped him along the way.

"My mother didn't have money," Donaldson said. "People in the neighborhood got together money to help me get to the university and an older brother helped out a lot while I was in school, but not enough to keep me there."

Donaldson found many ways to pay for his education that were not covered by the scholarship that he received. He worked in the library binding and repairing books, ran the movie projector on Saturday nights and painted in the summer.

"I always had some type of job while I was at Lincoln," Donaldson said. "Sometimes more than one."

After graduating with a B.A. in mathematics from Lincoln University in 1961, Donaldson went on to attend University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where he received his both his M.S. and Ph. D. in mathematics.

Playing the role of a student and working taught Donaldson time-management skills that he currently uses as the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

"When I came to Howard, I did not come to be an administrator," Donaldson said. "This is something that found me. I really wanted to be in the classroom."

A dedicated teacher of mathematics and Freshman Seminar, Donaldson prioritizes interaction with students. Meeting with the HUSA Presi-

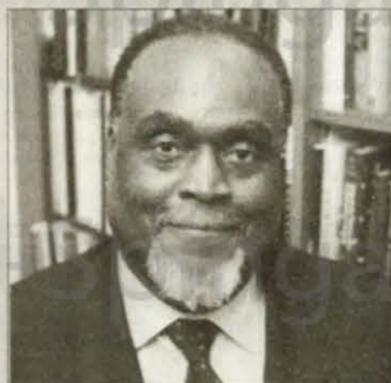


Photo Courtesy of Howard.edu

James Donaldson, Ph.D., said seeing Howard University students graduate provides motivation for him.

dent and the College of Arts and Sciences student council, attending town meetings and viewing performances by Fine Arts students are some of the many ways he stays involved.

Jonell Henry, a junior political science major, said Donaldson helped her to decide what she was passionate about, and was the reason why she decided to major in political science.

"Dean Donaldson made me look at my likes and dislikes to see what major best fit my interests," Henry said.

Launching of *Flagship*, the College of Arts & Sciences newsletter, initiating a summer study abroad program and advancing the symposium on undergraduate research are three steps Donaldson and his staff have taken to keep the college competitive.

"Under his [Donaldson's] leadership, we have had an opportunity to advance the undergraduate research symposium which has become a

very important part of the college's academic activities," said Tritobia Hayes-Benjamin, Ph.D., associate dean of the Division of Fine Arts.

It is Donaldson's goal that every student in the College of Arts & Sciences has the opportunity to study abroad.

"One of the major things he has done was to support developing the new language lab that had not been functioning for many years," said James Davis, Ph.D., chair of the department of World Languages and Culture.

According to Davis, Donaldson continues to look at ways to expand the language lab and support expanding the language study of students.

"Whenever we run short in terms of funding for faculty or teaching courses that are needed the dean is always quick to seek additional funding," Davis said.

Donaldson intends to provide funding for an international affairs degree program as well as funding for building repairs and scholarships.

"The college has been around since 1867 and our buildings have been around just a day shorter than that," Donaldson said.

Over the years, Donaldson had seen many of his students graduate. He said this is what keeps him motivated.

"When I see one of our students, whether they're in the College of Arts and Sciences or anywhere in the university, has done something remarkable," Donaldson said. "That's a motivation."

One former student, whom he recalls in particular, is Brandon T. Neal, the current National Director of the NAACP Youth and College Division.

"He was a student and went on to become a director at the NAACP," Donaldson said. "And I think he had a prominent role in the Obama campaign."



What do you like or dislike about *The Hilltop*?



"I like *The Hilltop* because it tells us about the world and what is happening on campus from the students' point of view."

-Bianca Bailey, sophomore, chemical engineering



"What I like about *The Hilltop* is it is very informative and coming directly from the students. It gives you insight of what is going on in the world and in the realms of Howard University."

-Tommy Atkins, sophomore, broadcast journalism



"I enjoy trying to solve the daily Soduko and I like how they show the current events on campus and around the world as well."

-Dominique Rice, freshman, mathematics

"I like reading the paper because they do a good job of letting us know what is happening around us. But they always leave out information like if an event is on campus they give you the time and place but not the date, or organizations might not give them all the information they need."

-Shamika Reid, freshman, business management

-Compiled by Camille Augustin, Editorial Assistant

Cabinet Dropouts: Obama's Picks That Didn't Make the Cut



Joe Butbank - Orlando Sentinel (MCT)

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson withdrew his name from Commerce Secretary.

Bill Richardson Would-be Commerce Secretary

Nearly one month after President Obama nominated Richardson for the position, he withdrew his name from the running because of an ongoing investigation about questionable business dealings in New Mexico. Former New Hampshire Governor Judd Gregg is Obama's new Secretary of Commerce designate.

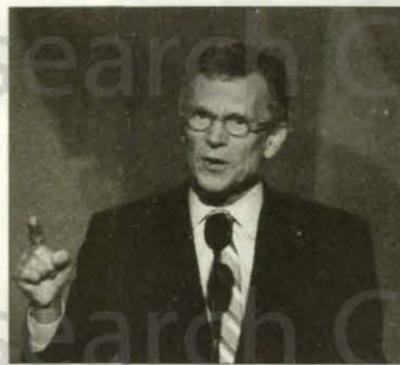
- Richardson is the 30th governor of New Mexico.
- He served as the U.S. Ambassador of the United Nations and Energy Secretary in the Clinton administration.
- He was the chairman of the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

Tom Daschle

Would-be Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services

Former senate majority leader Thomas Daschle was nominated to be President Obama's health secretary, but withdrew his name after controversy arose over unpaid taxes. He retreated from further confirmation on his appointment because he did not want to be a distraction in the Obama administration.

- Daschle served as a former senate majority leader.
- He was also a House of Representatives member, representing South Dakota.



Brian Baer - Sacramento Bee (MCT)

Former Sen. Tom Daschle withdrew his name from the running for Health Secretary.

Nancy Killefer

Would-be Chief Performance Officer

President Obama nominated Killefer to fill the position in his cabinet, but she withdrew her name after a previous tax error surfaced. The D.C. government placed a tax lien of over \$900 on her home in 2005 after she failed to pay unemployment tax for her household help. Killefer withdrew her name from the nomination on Feb. 3, 2009.

- Killefer served as a senior director of the Washington, D.C. office of McKinsey & Company, a global management consulting agency.
- In 2000, she joined the IRS Oversight Board, a corporate board that oversees the IRS.



Terence Antonio - Chicago Tribune (MCT)

Nancy Killefer withdrew her name from the running for White House Chief Performance Officer.

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



KWAME SPEAKS: Celebrating 40 Years of Africana Studies at Howard

We would first like to applaud *The Hilltop* for recognizing, acknowledging and remembering the legacy of Africana Studies. We must always remember the work and sacrifice of Nathan Hare, Acklyn Lynch, Russell Adams, Ron Walters and countless others who have contributed to the creation and maintenance of Africana studies at Howard and many other universities.

The students and some faculty of Howard, however, had their eyes set on a larger goal. The idea of starting Africana studies was centered on a larger idea of creating a truly black university. In fact, Tuesday's article alluded to this idea.

A series of conferences dealing with this very idea were held on campus in the late 1960s, and in 2007 the Kwame Ture Society refreshed this idea.

At these conferences, scholars, activists and community members explained the need for African people to have more control over their academic curriculum. This would entail creating an academic curriculum that not only began with the teaching of African history, but encapsulated African world views, philosophies and teachings.

It expands the academic understanding of African people by recognizing their distinct governance structures, ways in which they engaged in cultural meaning-making, their movement and memory, how they utilized science and technology, their relationship to different social structures and their inherent ways of knowing.

A truly black university is a university that attempts to speak in academic language that engages African people to achieve their highest potential.

A truly black university does not seek to "blacken" current institutions, rather it seeks to socialize and educate based upon distinct African ways of knowing. It does not start philosophy in Greece, history in slavery and view hip-hop as a negative phenomenon in the black community.

It is a university that recognizes and our relationship to the current social structure. It is a university that views the African experience as circular rather than linear.

For Africana scholars, there is obviously much work left to do in achieving the objective articulated by Anthony Giddens in his 1968 *Hilltop* interview. First we must do the work of establishing normative theory in the discipline of Africana Studies.

In 1968, Black Studies became an established program at San

Francisco State University under the direction of Nathan Hare who was expelled from Howard University for inflaming students with the idea of Black Studies and promoting its institutionalization on Howard University's campus.

Nathan Hare, while at Howard University and later at San Francisco State University, reflected on issues within the discipline.

Nathan Hare continued to ponder its direction in the 1970 article entitled "Questions and Answers about Black Studies;" he attempted to answer the questions of what a black studies curriculum should look like. Who should instruct in black studies? Are white people welcomed in the discipline? If so, should they instruct or remain students?

Hare was preceded in 1969 by John W. Blassingame who, in his article entitled "Black Studies: An Intellectual Crisis," questioned who should be the authoritative voice in Black Studies and what are the objectives of Black Studies?

In 1980, Philip E.K. Daniel also attempted to conceptualize the agenda, direction and foundation of Black Studies, by raising the issue that there is no common 'disciplinary thread' in Black Studies.

Aforementioned are just a few articles on the questioning of Black Studies and the attempts to re-conceptualize the objective, the function and the direction of Black Studies in the hopes of creating a foundation in which we can establish systemic change in the black community.

This is a 40-year discussion that has not lead to any progressive or productive change, or resolutions. In short, there are gatekeepers in Africana Studies who are promoting themselves instead of creating foundations to promote the community.

Howard must challenge these current arrangements and answer the aforementioned questions if it truly wants to establish Africana Studies, toward a truly black university.

This starts with effective leadership. We hope that this will inspire us to think seriously about our part in the creation of a secure foundation embedded in the tradition of Baba John Henrik Clarke, Baba Asa G. Hilliard III, Baba Jacob Carruthers, Baba Yosef A. A. Ben Jochannan, Baba Carter G. Woodson, Baba Cheikh Anta Diop, Baba Theophilus Obenga, Baba Martin R. Delaney, Mama Maria M. Stewart, Mama Fannie Lou Hamer, Baba Paul Robeson, Baba Mar-



Photo Courtesy of www.people.sunnyvale.ca.us

Howard alumnus Kwame Toure was a civil rights activist who, like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., fought for justice in the African-American community.

cus Garvey, Baba Malcolm X, Baba Greg Kimathi Carr, Baba Mario Beatty and Mama Ida B. Wells, Mama Nzinga Ratbisha Heru, Mama Valentia Watkins-Beatty, Baba Kwame Ture, Baba Boukman, Mama Zora Neale Hurston, Baba Nat Turner, Baba Jules Harrell, Mama Marimba Ani, Baba Ayei Kwei Armah and many, many more scholars.

-Courtney Javins and Josh Myers, Kwame Toure Society

The Kwame Toure Society is a research-based organization geared towards history, historiography and historicity. Kwame Speaks is a mechanism that the Kwame Toure Society uses to communicate a unique perspective to the Howard University community on current and relevant issues. Questions and comments can be directed to kts_hu@yahoo.com

Lebron James Equals Greatness



BY MICHAEL BENJAMIN
Contributing Columnist

Lebron James, you played an amazing game on Wednesday night.

Yes, I've been getting razzed pretty good by my friends and readers this week. But I don't care. Though everybody is trying to clown my team, I understand why we lost. We, the New York Knicks, stood in the way of you and NBA history, and for that you made us pay dearly.

While we only lost by five points to your team, your spectacular performance has created ripples of excitement across our country and world. I respect your greatness.

I write this letter to you, a man of great talent, frontrunner for the MVP award and potential free agent in the Summer of 2010. Besides the lucrative marketing deals, unlimited access to "The Cage" and Rucker Park and the unbridled cultural expression that New York possesses, we also lay claim to Madison Square Garden.

The Garden means more than any other typical NBA arena. Great rivalries, individual exploits and riveting moments are etched in the stadium's brick and steel. Heck, legends have been singing the court's praises since my childhood.

But you already knew that. You've even said that the Garden is "the last great building that's still alive" in today's NBA.

Think about it. The excitement you felt on Wednesday night could happen every night. A great player deserves to play in a great stadium, and the World's Most Famous Arena is that place.

The Garden is the last building standing that embraces the contours and dimensions of greatness. Unlike these new NBA stadiums, which were made to extract dollars from the wallets of the rich at the expense of the poor, the Garden has always paid homage to the real fans, regardless of individual decadence.

Sure, I know people have told you that New Yorkers expect a lot from their superstar athletes — and they're right. Heck, you've seen us kill A-Rod for his propensity to disappear on the biggest of stages. But we know you can be the greatest ever.

I've seen you dominate in Beijing. I saw you carry a terrible Cavaliers team to the NBA Finals and give the San Antonio Spurs a run for their money. We are all witnesses.

Don't be alarmed at the lack of capable talent that may surround you in 2010. David Lee, Wilson Chandler and Nate Robinson are good. Most of those other scrubs will be cleared off the books by your Freedom Day, and our management will surround you with the players you'll need to succeed.

Lebron, what makes you even scarier, what amazes me even more than your game is your maturity. Though you've only been alive for 24 seasons, I've noticed that you possess wisdom beyond your years.

Unlike Kobe, a great player who's every move is simply an expansion of the foundation laid by Michael Jordan, your game transcends the existing structural elements that define basketball's ancestors. You're already the greatest player alive, and you still haven't perfected your jump shot. Simply put, your potential is limitless.

Lebron James, thanks for the memories. Thanks for playing your best every single night. Thanks for expanding our imaginations regarding the game of basketball. And thanks for honoring the World's Most Famous Arena.

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.

National Signing Day for College Football

Signing Day for Division 1 football teams was held on Wednesday, Feb. 4. Here are the top 15 recruiting classes for 2009 across the nation

1. Alabama

Buzz: Alabama dominated its home state again, landing the state's top seven players, then went out and landed the top prospect in Florida, running back Trent Richardson, a terrific safety in Rod Woodson from Mississippi and three solid offensive linemen from Georgia. This is the second consecutive No. 1 class hauled in by Saban and company.

2. LSU

Buzz: This is an unbelievable class with in-state stars such as Davenport, running back Michael Ford, Barkevious Mingo, offensive lineman Chris Faulk and out-of-staters such as Shepard, linebacker Kevin Minter, athlete Drayton Calhoun and safety Craig Loston. The Tigers loaded up.

3. USC

Buzz: Another year, another elite class for the Trojans. USC once again has the best class in the Pac 10, and this year's group has plenty of stars other than Barkley and Kennard. Patrick Hall is one of the nation's best athletes, and the five-star prospect should star at safety in the future. Kennard might have ascended to the No. 1 ranking in the nation, but he suffered a knee injury.

4. Ohio State

Buzz: The Buckeyes jumped out of the gate early, securing a majority of their commitments before the season even got into high gear. As always, Ohio State did a lot of their damage in their backyard, plus they went national to score some other key prospects. A late addition of four-star offensive tackle Marcus Hall was a nice boost right before National Signing Day.

5. Texas

Buzz: Texas landed three in-state five-star recruits in Gilbert, Okafor and offensive lineman Mason Walters. Further bolstering that in-state dominance, the Longhorns landed one of the state's best defenders in Calvin Howell, a great possession receiver in Greg Timmons, a jumbo athlete in Chris Whaley and a shut-down corner in Marcus Davis. Texas also added depth to the offensive line beyond Walters with Thomas Ashcraft, Garrett Porter and Paden Kelley and two of the nation's best tight ends in Barrett Matthews and Trey Graham. After Oklahoma snatched up some of the state's best in 2008, the Longhorns locked down the state in 2009.

6. Florida State

Buzz: Florida State had another great recruiting year and hit on most of their needs. Two four-star running backs, Lonnie Pryor and Chris Thompson, lead the offensive charge along with wide receivers Willie Haulstead and Rodney Smith and linemen Henry Orelus and Aubrey Phillips. On defense, McDaniel and Reid are five-star pickups and are joined by four-star defensive ends Brandon



Florida State head coach Bobby Bowden (left) shakes hand with Nick Saban (right) Alabama head coach. This year Rivals.com ranked Alabama's recruiting class as number one and Florida State as number six.

Stephen M. Dowell (MCT)

Jenkins and Demonte McAllister, four-star linebacker C.J. Mizell and four-star defensive backs Jajuan Harley. Athlete Willie Downs could be an impact guy on offense or defense, and FSU did a great job getting quarterback Will Secord away from Arkansas.

7. Michigan

Buzz: While it was a disappointing season on the field for the Wolverines, there were only a few disappointments in the recruiting front. Rich Rodriguez was able to scour the nation for the type of offensive skill players led by quarterback Tate Forcier and athlete Jeremy Gallon that should help immediately.

8. North Carolina

Buzz: North Carolina's recruiting has changed since Butch Davis took over and the Heels now are consistently involved with top players up and down the East Coast. UNC nailed it at numerous key positions including along the defensive line, at linebacker and at wide receiver. UNC dominated its home state, pulling in seven of the top 10 players.

9. Georgia

Buzz: Georgia signed two big-time quarterbacks (both already are enrolled), a touchdown machine in running back Washun Ealey and playmakers at receiver in Marlon Brown and Rantavious Wooten. There's a strong group of linemen headed to Athens. Smith is one

of the nation's best corners.

10. Florida

Buzz: This is another good class for Urban Meyer and his Gators, as the national champs loaded up on speed and athleticism with Debose, Josh Evans and Mike Gillislee. The Gators filled big needs on the offensive line and at linebacker. Five-star prospect Gary Brown has a chance to be a big-time defensive tackle.

11. Miami

Buzz: Obviously, running back Bryce Brown would be the headliner of this class had he decided to sign. But Armstrong and Miller are talented prospects and lead a strong class for the 'Canes. In addition to Miller, Miami signed another talented running back in Mike James. Miami also did well along the offensive line. But it's on defense where the Hurricanes really hit the jackpot. Armstrong will be a monster at linebacker or safety, and the defensive line is loaded. Brandon McGee is a great get at cornerback.

12. South Carolina

Buzz: Steve Spurrier and his staff reeled in a good class. This group is loaded with athletes such as Gilmore, Jeffery, Matt Coffee, Leon Mackey, Chaz Sutton, DeVonte Holloman and Jarvis Giles. Getting wide receiver Alshon Jeffery an in-state star who once was committed to USC was huge for the Gamecocks.

13. Oklahoma

Buzz: The Sooners landed another nationally regarded class, thanks mainly to the defensive group heading to Norman. The Sooners reeled in three top-50 national prospects — Lynn, McFarland and linebacker Ronnell Lewis. Major depth was added at linebacker with head-hunter Tom Wort a major steal from the state of Texas.

14. Arkansas

Buzz: With limited talent in-state this year, the Arkansas staff scoured the heartland and the southeast for top prospects and brought in a nationally ranked class. Winston and offensive lineman Colby Berna were big pickups and ensured that the top in-state players stayed home. The Razorbacks signed good players from Texas and Louisiana. Brandon Mitchell a former LSU basketball commitment may be the sleeper of the class at quarterback.

15. Michigan State

Buzz: The Spartans were one of the nation's biggest surprises, and they also surprised a lot of local observers with their dominating in-state class. Led by recruiting coordinator Mark Staten and ace recruiter Dan Enos, Michigan State scored some major head-to-head wins against Michigan.

Information Courtesy of Rivals.com

HU's Football Team Adds 13 Players on Signing Day

Name	Position	High School	Hometown
Alfonso Beale	DL	Archbishop Carroll High School	Decatur, GA
Toavon Sheets	DL	Columbia High School	Silver Spring, MD
Bradley Bush-Johnson	OL	Independence High School	Charlotte, NC
Anthony Whitlow	LB	Centennial High School	Corona, CA
Rodney Hill	DL	West Lawn Wilson High School	Sinking Spring, PA
Clay Gidron	WR	Orangeburg Wilkerson High School	Orangeburg, SC
Clinton Gidron	LB	Orangeburg Wilkerson High School	Orangeburg, SC
Curtis Simmons	DB	Orangeburg Wilkerson High School	Orangeburg, SC
DeOndrea Pugh	OL	Scotts Branch High School	Manning, SC
Jeremy Bowman	OL	Scotts Branch High School	Summerton, SC
Troy Georgia	OL	Scotts Branch High School	Summerton, SC
Keon Hester	DB	Seneca Valley High School	Germantown, MD

— Courtesy of Howard University Sports Information Office

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

February 6, 1971

The first time a golf ball is hit on the moon. It was hit by astronaut Alan Shepard.

Courtesy of www.todayinsports.com

R.I.P. Juicy
Campus.com!

Thank you for all
of the good times
and rumors!

Saturday a Busy One in Burr Gymnasium

BY DEONTAY MORRIS
Sports Editor

On Saturday, Burr gymnasium will play host to three big events. The HBCU swimming championships will be taking place at 3 p.m. in the newly renovated pool.

At 2 p.m., both Bison basketball teams will be in action in a double header against the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. However the basketball game at 4 p.m. will have a different vibe than usual because it is the annual "Campaign Game."

"I'm going to let the students see the fun side of our game and show that even with purpose you can still have fun," said Andrew Jones,

HUSA presidential candidate and junior legal communications major.

Every year, once student election season kicks off, it has been tradition for candidates to promote their platform and ideas at the first home basketball game after campaign kickoff.

"A lot of times the basketball games at Howard aren't well attended," said Bryan Smart, a HUSA presidential candidate and junior political science major. "But because this is election season the game will attract more students and our athletes will receive more support."

In the swim meet, the Bison will take on the Florida A&M Rattlers and the North Carolina A&T Aggies. It is the last meet before the Coastal Collegiate (CCSA) Championships in Hunters-

ville, N.C. on Feb. 21.

The Bison men's basketball team has been on a roll lately, winning the last four of six games. Kyle Riley and Eugene Myatt have put the squad on their backs and carried them through MEAC conference play.

All Bison fans are encouraged to come out and rock the Burr and show their support for Bison athletics.

"We want everyone's advice and we want to hear everyone's concerns," said Rodney Hawkins, School of Communications presidential hopeful and sophomore broadcast journalism major. "Also we're going to have some fun and enjoy the game. Hopefully the team will earn a victory."

Tomorrow in Burr:

2 p.m.: Men's & Women's Basketball Games

3 p.m.: HBCU Swimming Championship

4 p.m.: Campaign Game

Business Plan Competition

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Chenille Miller II - Cartoonist

Bong Pic Ignites Scrutiny for An Olympic Record-breaker

Record-breaking Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps was suspended for three months by USA Swimming yesterday as punishment for a picture that surfaced of Phelps smoking out of a bong.

"I engaged in behavior which was regrettable and demonstrated bad judgment," Phelps said in a statement. "I'm 23 years old and despite the successes I've had in the pool, I acted in a youthful and inappropriate way, not in a manner people have come to expect from me. For this, I am sorry. I promise my fans and the public it will not happen again."

At first there was a question of whether or not Phelps would receive the appropriate punishment, but his suspension from USA Swimming proves the Olympian's past actions are not consistent with the image that fans admire. According to the swimming federation that suspended Phelps he has willingly accepted the punishment.

While smoking cannabis is only a misdemeanor charge,

Olympic athletes are bound by the terms of the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA), a foundation led by members of the International Olympic Committee. According to the WADA, Cannabis is a banned substance and any athlete found

"I recognize the seriousness of this mistake," Phelps said in a courtroom five years ago. "I've learned from this mistake and will continue learning from this mistake for the rest of my life. This statement was very similar to the one he recently released in response to the picture which surfaced in *News of the World*, a British tabloid.

What type of message does this send to young fans who look up to him? Even though Phelps has never tested positive for drugs, he represents the Olympics and all of the companies that endorse him. No one is perfect and everyone makes mistakes, especially at a young age. But Phelps represents something greater than himself and the irresponsible choices that he has made. He represents American athletic excellence, which demands a certain level of responsibility and accountability.

In addition to the suspension Kellogg Co. terminated his endorsement contract. Hopefully, Phelps has learned his lesson and will not have to defend illegal substance use again.

Our View:

Phelps is not above the law and his punishment is fitting.

using the drug can face a ban of up to two years.

Since Phelps did not violate the anti-dope rule, his punishment is fitting. This should serve as a wake up call for him, especially since this is not the first time he has had to face consequence for substance use.

In 2004, Phelps was sentenced to 18 months probation after pleading guilty to a drunk driving charge.

Perspective

Interim Provost Thornton Clarifies Purge Process

The component of the university's student registration and validation process, commonly known as "the purge," is not fully understood. We must ensure that our students and the university community understand the necessity and purpose of this practice.

The Office of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer, in consultation with the Registrar and the Executive Director of Student Financial Services, approves the date each semester when the course registrations of students who have not met their financial obligations to the university are cancelled or "purged" for non-payment of tuition and fees.

The university's official enrollment includes all students, undergraduate, graduate and professional, who have satisfied their financial obligations to the university and have been financially validated. Registering for courses does not constitute official enrollment. Students are not considered to be officially "enrolled" until they have been financially validated (completed appropriate financial arrangements, either through direct payments, scholarships, federal financial aid, loans or other third party payments).

All colleges and universities require their students to pay for the educational services that they receive. The actual cost of the educational services is subsidized significantly by the university and other public and private sources. Some universities and colleges require students to pay for these services prior to the beginning of each academic semester. Others require their students to pay their tuition, fees and other charges at the point of initial course registration.

Howard University, like many other institutions of higher education, permits students regis-

ter for classes and begin their enrollment before paying all their tuition and fees. In support of their education, the university gives students a reasonable period of time to pay back-balances and charges for the current semester. Howard provides students an array of institutional, federal and other forms of financial aid to help them meet their financial obligations and continue their education.

In anticipation of the federally mandated submission of its official student enrollment to the U.S. Department of Education, the university sets a date each semester when the course registrations of students who have not arranged for the payment of their tuition, fees and other charges will be cancelled. The Office of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer, in consultation with the Director of Records/Registrar and Executive Director of the Office of Student Financial Services, determines the date of the purge.

Before setting the date, the university gives each student and his or her family as much time as possible to secure the financial resources required to avoid disenrollment. The Offices of the Registrar and Student Financial Services staff work diligently to analyze the unique circumstances of each student who is at risk of disenrollment and make available to them financial assistance for which they may be eligible.

Once the purge date has passed, and the course registrations of students who did not meet their financial obligations in time have been cancelled, the University submits to the Department of Education the required Student Status Confirmation Report (SSCR). The SSCR includes the University's official enrollment data, which is used to determine

federal student loan repayment dates for all current and formerly enrolled students. The Report is the subject of annual audits by the federal government. The SSCR serves as the university's official student enrollment documentation for all federal agencies.

Each semester, with the exception of a small number, our undergraduate, graduate and professional students are able to meet their financial obligations to the university. They do so with funds drawn from personal, family, university and governmental sources. We are proud of the fact that last semester, fall 2008, the university was able to register and validate 10,709 students. Unfortunately, the course registrations of 150 students were "purged" because they, for various reasons, were not able to pay their tuition, fees and other charges.

During the spring 2009 enrollment period, the Office of Financial Aid, Scholarship and Student Employment is monitoring closely student accounts to ensure that all payments, pending payments and credits are considered. It is also being aggressive in providing institutional grants and scholarships to eligible students with unpaid balances.

We will continue to do all that we can to help our students complete their enrollment and achieve their educational goals. Students who have questions about "the purge" should visit the Offices of the Registrar or Student Financial Services to have their questions addressed.

- Dr. Alvin Thornton, Interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

Do you want to write for The Hilltop?

Come to our next budget meeting!

Sunday @ 6 p.m. in the West Towers

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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

THE HILLTOP

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

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

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

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.

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

Want to express your talent? Come audition for Christian Sisters United Variety Show on Feb 11th @ 6pm to 7:30 Located: Fine arts building recital Hall. All men and Women are welcomed.

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>.

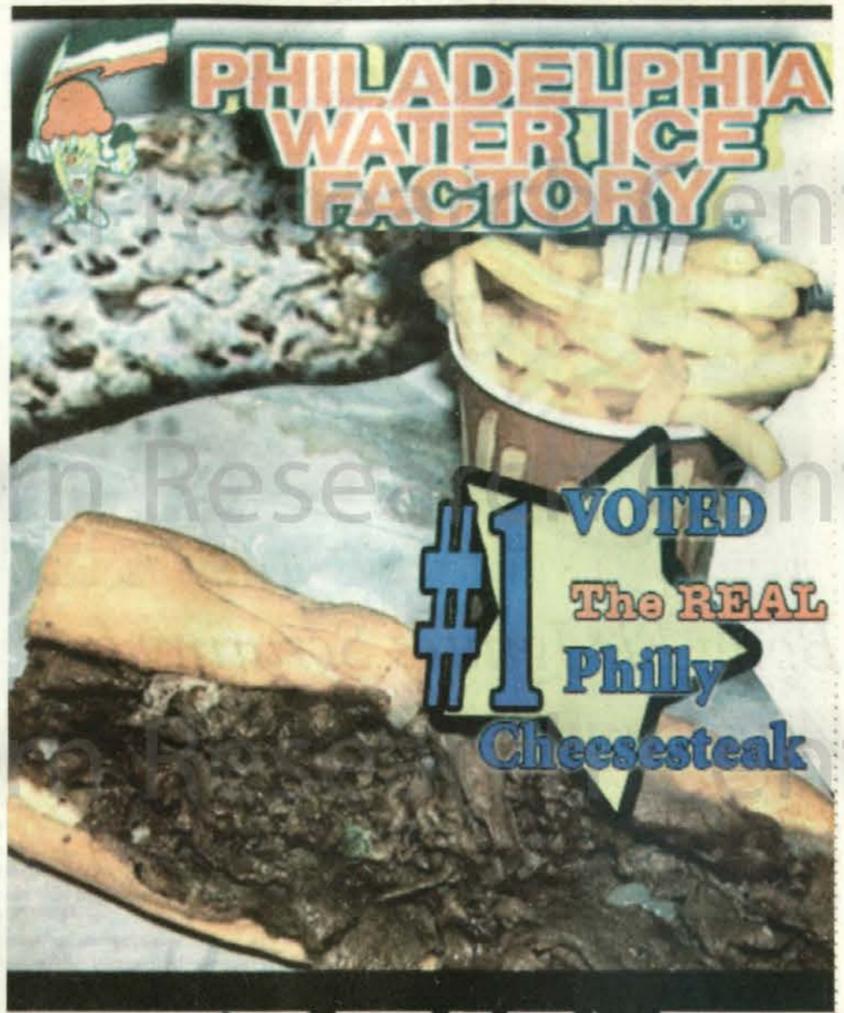
Would you like to be recognized for your accolades at the Biggest Event of the School year? Stop by the HUSA Office Blackburn Suite 102 today and get information about the 2009 Excellence Awards. Awards include: Bison and Bisonette of the Year Male/ Female Underclassman of the Year Graduate and Professional School Male/Female of the Year Male/Female Athlete of the Year

Spring Fashion Show: "Walk This Way" MODEL CALL!!! A HUSOP 2011 Production. Interested? Questions? fashionexpress09g-mail.com

Howard Chapter, NAACP would like to invite the Howard Community to Celebrate 100 years of collective progress!!! 100 YEARS STRONG!

The Brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Alpha Chapter Present: Blue Love Week

Sunday February 8, 2009 Call to Crampton Auditorium 11 AM



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Department of Residence Life IMPORTANT RSVP ANNOUNCEMENT Housing Information for 2009-2010

Today is the LAST DAY to pay your Housing Deposit!!!

Students seeking housing for the 2009-2010 academic year are required to participate in RSVP.

Students who are validated for Spring 2009 will be able to make their \$200 Advanced Rent Payment online through February 6, 2009.

Payment instructions are under "Housing Deposit Payment" in BISONWEB.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All students with housing assignments for the 2009-2010 academic year MUST be validated prior to moving into the residence halls.

NOTE: Your \$200 deposit does not guarantee you housing.

Continuing students who are recipients of the Presidential, Laureate, Capstone, Founders, Upward Bound and Hartford Scholarships do not have to submit a RSVP deposit, but must make an online selection.

The Society of Collegiate Black Men Present: Society Week 2009

Wednesday, February 4th Anatomy of a Man: A Discussion on Manhood, Spirituality, and HealthPanel 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