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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO. 87

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Monday, February 9, 2009

Monday's Notebook**CAMPUS**

FIND OUT HOW HOWARD DENTISTRY STUDENTS IMPACT THE D.C. COMMUNITY EVERY YEAR.

PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD

READ TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS MAIL TAKES BEFORE MAKING IT THE WHITE HOUSE.

PAGE 4

SPORTS

WHICH BELOVED MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYER WAS CAUGHT USING STEROIDS?

PAGE 5

Candidates Shoot for a Clear Brand Image

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON
Staff Writer

Burr Gymnasium reeked of campaign spirit, as students came to show their support, not only for the Bison, but for the future student leaders of Howard University.

Saturday marked "Campaign Day" in Burr, a chance for the candidates of this year's student elections to show school spirit and mingle with their constituents.

Students were dressed in a wide variety of colors, flaunting the T-shirts of their favorite candidate.

"One of the biggest things in campaigning is brand recognition, having your candidates recognized," said Brian Cox, one of the campaign managers for Howard University Student Association (HUSA) candidates Bryan Smart and Jerome Joseph.

He said, "The bright green color was chosen to stand out so you can recognize a Smart-Joseph supporter any-

where."

The candidates used snacks such as RedBull, water and fruit snacks to spark the students' interest in their platforms.

But one candidate hopes to receive her votes in a different way.

Undergraduate trustee candidate Nastassja Spencer sat in the stands without handbills or T-shirts.

"The route that I am going is very different; it is the route of an average student," Spencer said. "I made the decision to run for this position about a week and a half ago, just because myself and my peers want to see changes made."

She said that if she wins, she wins and if she doesn't, she doesn't and that at the end of the day, the students choose. If campaign materials determine who they vote for, it is not meant to be taken personal.

James Sims, campaign manager for undergraduate trustee candidate Nnamdi Anozie, noted that although Anozie is utilizing T-shirts for publicity,

the most important part of his campaign is connecting with the people.

Junior marketing major, ReJeanna Lewis said that campaign materials are not the most important aspect of winning a campaign, but it makes it easier for people to remember the candidate with a certain color or campaign slogan.

Corey Briscoe, candidate for undergraduate trustee, did not attend due to previous engagements.

Some student volunteers showed support for the candidates' platforms and campaign managers by making sure that the vision of candidates was displayed.

"I support this because I believe the things that they plan to do, they can actually accomplish," said Brittany Ireland, volunteer for HUSA candidates Andrew Jones and Asia Smith. "The Jones-Smith campaign will lead the student body to a better Howard University."

Another Jones-Smith supporter Datrianna Meeks wants to see the "Se-

> See **CANDIDATES**, page 3

Mya Romo - Contributing Photographer

Candidates from all slates and campaigns came out to "Campaign Day" in Burr on Saturday to support the Bison and get their message out.

Bison March for The Environment

*Resurrection of 'Green Bison' could Mean campus sustainability*BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

The "Green Bison," believed to be extinct for almost a year, was revived Friday afternoon and could be seen loitering on the tables of the Punchout.

Originally founded on Earth Day 2008, the Green Bison Initiative is a "coalition to ensure that Howard is sustainable," according to the Howard University Student Association Policy and Planning Director, Jared Smith.

The result of the coalition was a march held Friday at 11:30 p.m. from the School of Dentistry to the Punchout. In the Punchout, almost every table had green balloons and a bottle full of water with a quote written across it.

One of the quotes by P.J. O'Rourke read, "College idealists who fill the ranks of the environmental movement seem willing to do absolutely anything to save the biosphere...."

To help educate the students relaxing in the cafe, a PowerPoint was prepared and shown behind the DJ booth. The slides primarily discussed the failing grade Howard received on the College Sustainability Report Card. For years, Howard has repeatedly received an "F."

"The rebirth will show the student body and administration that we are serious," Smith said. "There is no reason why we are the source of laughter in the Green community."

According to Nykeeda Brown, a sophomore psychology major, another reason why Howard should not be a "source of laughter" is because D.C. regulations require the university to have a recycling plan.

In addition, the Green Bison Initiative wants to work to "disprove the stereotype that black people do not care about the environment," which was written across one of the PowerPoint slides.

Referring to environmental racism, Smith said that African Americans care about the environment because we are disproportionately affected by the hazardous by-products of industry.

"The sad part is not to even know," Smith said.

To push the need for an environmentally friendly Howard for not only the students, but the predominantly black D.C. residents living in the neighborhoods around the campus, a Web site, getfabulouslygreen.com, has been created.

One of the last slides read, "Those who have not the boldness to strive for change, should not have the audacity to complain."



Bree Gant - Contributing Photographer

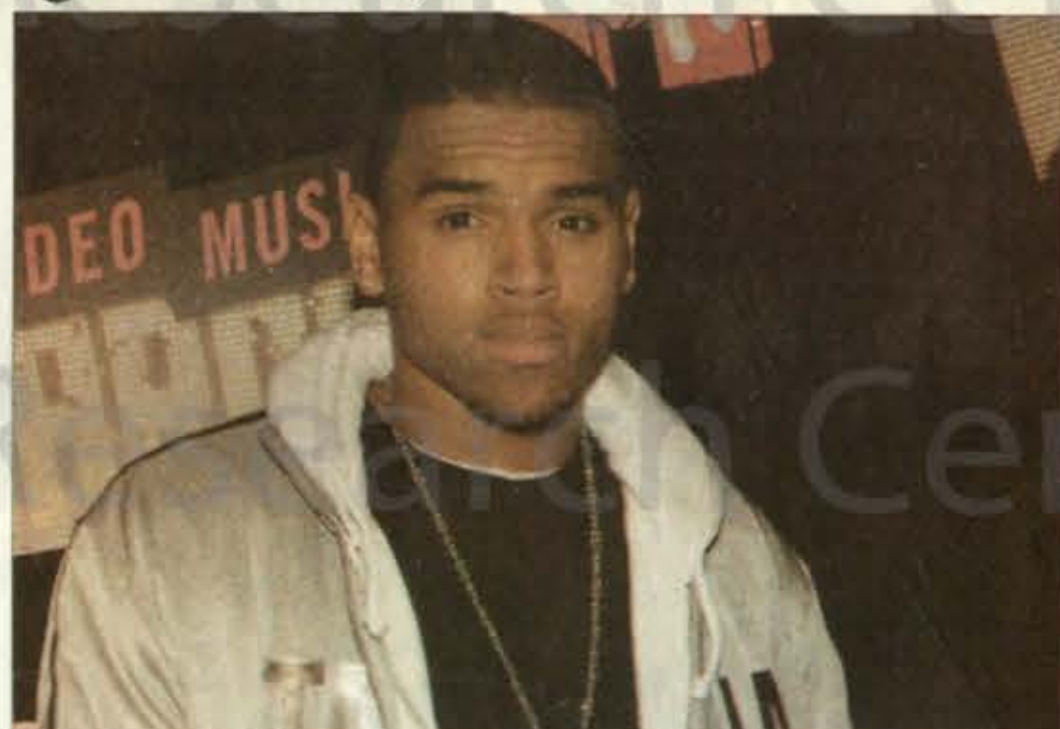
Reema Johnson had a chance to experience the Green Bison Initiative while having lunch in the Punchout.

"There is no reason why we are the source of laughter in the Green community."

- Jared Smith, HUSA policy and planning director

Students wishing to strive for change have the option of joining Engineers Without Borders, ewbpres@gmail.com; Howard University Environmental Society, zariao@gmail.com; Howard University EcoCAR, howardecoar@gmail.com; and E2 (Environmental Educational).

Grammy Night Full of Stars, Shockers



Lionel Hahn - Abaca Press (MCT)

The 51st Grammy Awards ceremony got off to a rough start as pop stars Chris Brown and Rihanna cancelled their appearances shortly before the event. Chris Brown is allegedly facing felony battery charges in a domestic violence case that took place Sunday morning in Los Angeles.

The two stars' performances were replaced and the ceremony continued with performances from several artists including U2, who opened the show, and Jennifer Hudson, who took home Best R&B album of the year.

The night also featured several collaborative performances. Justin Timberlake performed with Boyz II Men and Al Green, the Jonas Brothers performed "Burnin' Up" with Stevie Wonder, and T.I. performed his hit single "Swagga Like Us" with M.I.A., Jay-Z, Lil' Wayne and Kanye West.

The night's big winners included Coldplay who won Best Rock Album for "Viva La Vida" and Song of the Year and Best Pop Performance for their single "Viva La Vida."

- Compiled by Aleesa Mann, Life & Style Editor

President Mugabe Shares Political Control With New Prime Minister Tsvangirai

BY ANGELA P. SMITH
Staff Writer

Zimbabwe's president Robert Mugabe has finally softened his stand and agreed to work with the opposition for the formation of a unity government, after years of political conflict and economic turmoil.

Mugabe, 80, has been in power since Zimbabwe's independence from Great Britain in 1980. He has held off talks with the opposition for the past seven years. But Thursday, the parliament unanimously passed a resolution to form a unity govern-

ment with Mugabe and the opposition.

The bill creates the new position of prime minister, to be filled by Morgan Tsvangirai, the leader of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), while Mugabe remains as president.

The details of the power-sharing deal were actually made in September 2008, but the two parties squabbled over the control of key ministries such as defense, home affairs, information and foreign affairs, CNN reported.

Tsvangirai is scheduled to be sworn in to office Feb. 11, a date set by the regional Southern African Development

Community leaders last month when they met to resolve the conflict between the two men.

Many Zimbabweans and others around the world are optimistic that the implementation of this new government will cure the country's political corruption, cholera epidemic and economic woes.

"This is a historic occasion that seeks to form an inclusive government. It has been a long, frustrating and bumpy journey," Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa said in a statement.

> See **MUGABE**, page 3

President Robert Mugabe (left) has served as Zimbabwe's president since 1980. Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai (right) is leader of the opposition to Mugabe.

Howard Dentistry Students Give D.C. Children Something to Smile About

BY KILLIAN LEWIS
Contributing Writer

Howard University Dentistry School served as the location for eager children awaiting their first dentist appointment at the 7th annual "Give Kids a Smile" day held Friday.

This nationwide program is held to raise awareness of the importance of access to dental care for low-income children.

One hundred and sixty-eight students from Bancroft Elementary School in Mt. Pleasant, a neighborhood in D.C., were chosen in December to participate in this program.

Michael Blicher, president of the D.C. Dental Society, said the day's sole purpose was to help raise awareness for under privileged kids in the D.C. community. "People don't realize that cavity and tooth decay is the No. 1 chronic illness in children, more common than the fever," Blicher said.

In the midst of these little children, there were certified dentists and dental students there to help out for the day.

Anna Tam, a third-year dentistry student, performed prophesies and sealants on the kids. "The main purpose for me being here is to give back to the community and gain more experience in my field," Tam said. "I want to do things like this in the future, so this is a good opportunity for me."



Eugene Garcia (MCT)

District youth were able to receive dental care from Howard dental students at the "Give Kids a Smile Day" event.

In addition to the free dental care the children received Friday, they also will get follow-up treatment.

Fourth-year dental student, Mark Kubitium, has helped out

every year since he started at Howard.

"We are doing a variety of things from escorting and ushering kids, to cleaning teeth," he said. "This program gives us a

chance to give back to the future society of America."

"Give Kids a Smile Day" is the first of many events that kicks off National Dental Health month.

Candidates Learn Ins and Outs of Student Government



Tahirah Hairston - Staff Writer

Over 20 future student leaders were in attendance in the Blackburn digital auditorium on Saturday, to get a better idea of how General Assembly (GA) and Howard University Student Association (HUSA) Policy Board functions.

Charles Taylor, chairman of Policy Board, led a session in teaching candidates, who plan to serve on Policy Board or General Assembly, Robert's Rules of Order and exactly how a meeting is suppose to run and how the debate process works in establishing policy.

Taylor taught a class on Robert's Rules of Order and legislation for student government.

Dominic Spencer, a College of Arts and Sciences candidate for Undergraduate Student Assembly representative said he was already familiar with Robert's Rules of Order but wanted to "get a refresher course."

"Just because I necessarily know the rules doesn't mean I know everything, no one is too big," Spencer said.

Participants in the Howard University Commission for Responsible Student Government session got a chance to try out what they learned with a practice round of Robert's Rules of Order.

- Tahirah Hairston, Staff Writer

Graduate Student Assembly Focuses On Dollars, Sense With Workshops

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

In light of the country's depressing economic downturn, approximately 60 graduate students gathered together to learn what they can do to prepare for the worse.

"Personal Finance Workshops," hosted by The Graduate Student Assembly, held Friday afternoon, informed graduate students of all disciplines and colleges how to manage their money properly.

"Students still have a lot of debt from

undergrad and they are facing issues applying for jobs," said Afia Opanitiri, graduate student representative.

According to Opanitiri, the aim of the workshops was to address the problems of paying back loans accumulated from undergraduate and graduate schools with an economy rapidly losing jobs.

The first workshop, entitled "Personal Workshop Management," focused on saving for a future home, managing credit and debt and investing wisely.

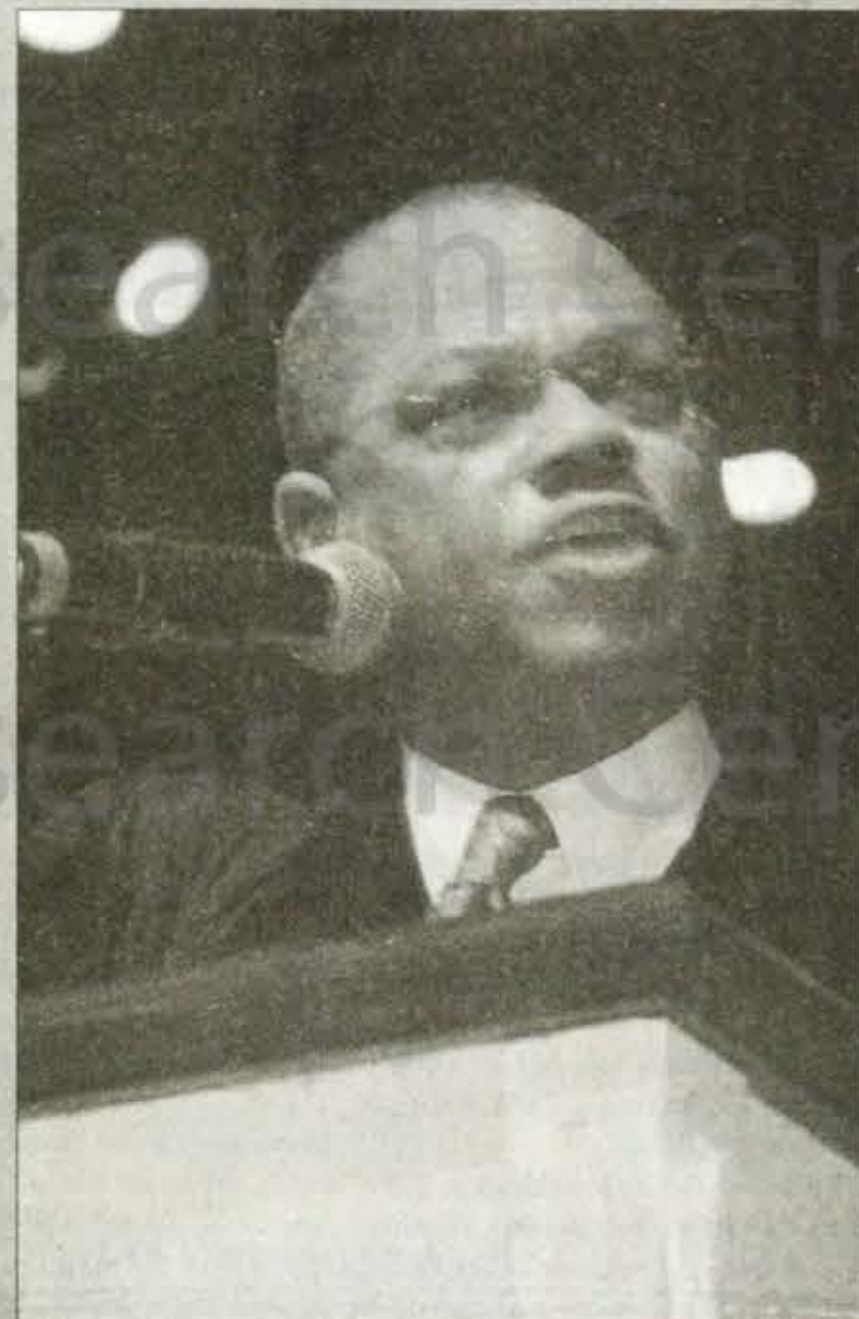
"Building Wealth through Investing,"

the second workshop, helped to identify the values of stocks and bonds.

Theodore Daniels, the founder and president of the Society for Financial Education and Professional Development, headed the event imparting with the students some of his first hand knowledge about financial management and investments.

Overall, Opanitiri believed that students walked away with a wealth of information about how to prepare for the uncertain future that lies ahead for many students.

Chapel Recap



Brian Gant - Contributing Photographer

The sermon "Pearls and Swine," delivered by Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, touched on a scripture from Matthew 7:1-6.

BY KYLA GRANT
Contributing Writer

Declaring that "it is always calmest before the storm," the Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III told the congregation at Sunday's Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel service to remain on guard.

"The sheer tenacity of [our] soul power is what has kept [us]...but [we] have yet to arrive," Butts said as applause filled the sanctuary.

"What is Africa to me, Copper sun or scarlet sea... strong bronzed men or regal black women from whose loins I sprang when the birds of Eden sand," Butts quoted from Countee Cullen's "Heritage" as he opened his sermon.

The Howard Gospel Choir sang "Manifest" as the hymn of preparation.

Butts was introduced by Dean Bernard Richardson as being "a man dedicated to the work of God."

Butts' message, "Pearls and Swine," was taken from Matthew 7:1-6. The message focused on verse 6 which reads, "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."

He told the congregation, "Something that is holy, has been sanctified for the service and worship of God."

"There is nothing more holy than our church," Butts said. "[The Church] has been our rock in a weary land."

Butts continued to speak about the church's position in black culture as parishioners throughout the sanctuary listened intently.

"The church is the carrier of our culture and the bearer of our dreams," Butts said. "There would be no black president without the black church," he declared.

He went on to talk about the damaging effects of "popular culture" on the sanctity of the black church.

"We will be lost if we allow people to infiltrate our churches," Butts said. "We live in a blatant time."

He also said that people will make jokes about things holy. Popular culture must not be allowed to make a mockery of our church.

Butts preached against following popular culture to please a society that wants to secularize the church.

"You must be careful with how you play with your religion," Butts said. "If there is anything the devil wants to destroy, it's the church. Hold on to the best of your faith and don't get bought out."

Referring to the sermon's passage of scripture, Butts told the audience, "Don't give what is holy to dogs. When you do, they [will] eat it up and turn on you."

He left the congregation with this charge, "Dearly beloved, watch for them dogs, they're out there seeking whom they may devour."

A native New Yorker, Reverend Butts is pastor of the nationally renowned Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City and president of SUNY College at Old Westbury. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Morehouse College and a Master of Divinity degree from the Union Theological Seminary.

Among his many accolades, Dr. Butts has spearheaded boycotts against several New York institutions for their racist policies and led a nationally acclaimed and most effective campaign to eliminate negative billboard advertising in central Harlem, N.Y.

Butts continues to be invited to preach in distinguished pulpits throughout New York City as well as nationally and internationally.

Campaign Day Kicks Off With Focus on Branding Image

CANDIDATES. Continued from front

cret Student" part of his platform put into action, which is a way for students to testify through video of the issues that they have on campus.

"My personal motive, really, is to just speak with students on a one-to-one basis," said Ryan C. Hamilton, Jones-Smith campaign manager. "With the purpose campaign, I wanted to make sure that everything that came to the students were from the students."

Smart-Joseph supporter Kiondra Fisher said that Smart and Joseph really want to see solutions to issues at Howard, which makes them perfect for the job.

"Our strategy, I wouldn't even call it strategy, it's basically grassroots," Cox said, Smart-Joseph campaign manager. "The most important thing is getting out there to talk to people, Bryan and Jerome are the more personable candidates in the race, so it comes naturally."

The only undergraduate trustee candidate with a campaign team present, Nnamdi Anozie, was ready to "evolve" the student body.

"He feels like keeping the things

that already work and building on to them," said Victoria Draper, volunteer for Anozie's campaign. "It's like you start with the grassroots and nourish it so it can grow, that's the whole point of the evolution."

She said that one of Anozie's main points is about education.

"Many people at Howard University don't realize there are certain ways to get things done. He wants to tell students where to go to and who to go to in order to get things done," Draper said.

A chance to get more acquainted with the candidates' ideas for the future of Howard will take place Wednesday at the next speak out, the "HU Tube Debate."

This debate, for HUSA and undergraduate trustee candidates, will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Blackburn Ballroom.

Students will be allowed to record their questions by video in the General Election Commissions office, suite 116 in Blackburn until Tuesday, Feb. 10.

This debate will give the students an opportunity to voice their concerns to the candidates as well.

Zimbabwe Leaders New, Old Manage to Share Responsibilities

MUGABE. Continued from front

"The train of the inclusive government will be leaving the station."

Chinamasa also said to let bygones be bygones so issues afflicting the country can be addressed.

The country has been politically paralyzed since Tsvangirai, after receiving more votes than President Robert Mugabe in the first round of voting in the

elections last year, dropped out of a runoff because of attacks on his followers.

Cholera cases in Zimbabwe have now passed 60,000 and claimed close to 4,000 lives, due to failed water and waste disposal systems in much of the country. There are also more than 5 million in need of food, according to the United Nations.

The country's shortages in es-

entials such as fuel and electricity have created an environment for inflation. Zimbabwe recorded the highest level of inflation in the world in July, at 231 million percent, according to GNN. Earlier this month, the central bank slashed 12 zeros from the value of its currency, making the \$1 trillion note now worth \$1.

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THE HILLTOP

*Do as I say,
Not as I do*



BY EDWARD WILLIAMS
Contributing Columnist

So, if you were blessed enough to have great black parents as I did, you've probably heard the phrase, "Do as I say, not as I do," at least one time during your childhood. Of course, this usually meant that you weren't old enough to do or had caught your parents doing something that they told you not to; either way, the cognitive dissonance that likely arose within you was probably the same.

You were likely left wondering well if this is wrong, why are they doing it? Well likewise, these same feelings arose this week for me as I watched the leadership of our country have several "do as I say, not as I do" moments.

First, Senator Tom Daschle, one of the foremost senators in the U.S. Senate and the former Senate Majority Leader, withdrew himself from the nomination of Secretary of Health and Human Services because it had been discovered that he failed to pay his taxes.

I know you're thinking how could a senator who has had no problem spending taxpayer's money for so many years have a problem paying his own part, especially considering he is paid with taxpayer money in the first place.

Adding salt to the wound, Obama stated in a CNN interview that he screwed up in his nomination of Daschle. How is that possible? How could Obama have screwed up with this nomination? What happened to all of the vetting and page-long questionnaires? Shouldn't the first question be, have you always paid your taxes? Guess not, I suppose we should just keep paying our taxes like good law-abiding citizens, even if our country's leadership doesn't.

Second, this week U.S. Congress is preparing to spend money we don't have. Now I am personally torn over this issue, primarily because I know people who have been personally affected by the economy's downturn, but it just doesn't make a lot of sense to put our country in deeper debt at a time when the message to the American public is don't live outside of your means.

Which one is it? Spend money you don't have to stimulate the economy or save your money and get rid of your debt? Regardless of the mixed signals, a \$700 billion bill will likely pass both Houses of Congress this week, increasing the debt load on our generation. Thanks a lot!

And third, President Barack Obama, who gave his most partisan speech this past week at a Democratic retreat and will go on prime time tonight to make the hard sell for the stimulus package, has broken his word. When President Obama was campaigning, his rhetoric centered on a new day in Washington and a new way of getting things done, but his actions and now even his speeches have indicated that he will continue, at least in the near future, to do things the way they've always been done.

Obama has stage-crafted the view that he is reaching across the aisle, but in truth, according to reports from within the meetings, he has been unbending and a little less than willing to hear the other side. Hopefully, after the stimulus package is signed, we'll see more hand-holding between Obama and all sides of the aisle; but for now, Obama is king of the pre-school sandbox and whatever he says goes.

Well, this week has been a little confusing, pay taxes or don't pay taxes, go into debt or don't go into debt, and keep your word or only keep your word when it's convenient, have all left me wondering about the message our leadership is sending to us. I suppose the only way to do the right thing is to follow your own moral compass, and hopefully just like when mom and dad used to utter that confusing statement, you'll understand it better years from now.

Edward is a senior international business major from Savannah, Ga. He is a devout follower of political news with a keen eye for analyzing how things work in the political community.

U.S. Post Officer Answers Question: Where Does White House Mail Go?

BY CURTIS MCCLLOUD
Contributing Writer

Sixteen-year-old Keandra Ferguson enjoys cheerleading, attending social functions with friends and watching television. Before Nov. 4 2008, presidential concerns and politics were the farthest thing from her mind. "Every time I saw something on television about government or politics, I changed the channel," Ferguson said.

But the election of Barack Obama as president of the United States helped Ferguson realize that investing time in matters concerning the country is something she needed to do. "It seems like everyone had a hand in this election. I feel like there has to be something I can do even at the age of 16," she said.

Eager to be a part of the historic change, Ferguson sent a letter to the White House congratulating President Obama and welcoming him to his new home. "I was really nervous. I didn't know what to say, let alone how to say it. I didn't even know how I was supposed to go about sending the letter," she said.

Her hands shook nervously as she pulled open the mail box door to drop the letter in. The letter dropped down the box. Then she realized she had forgotten to put a stamp on it.

"I felt so embarrassed. Postage is the most important thing. I didn't want to go through that again," she said.

Jerry McKiernan, media relations officer at the downtown post office, said that had Ferguson put a stamp on her letter, it would have come to the downtown post office first, not the White House.

"All mail that is addressed to the White House comes to us first," McKiernan said.

This practice of screening the President's mail started after the 2001 anthrax attacks. Since then, letters addressed to the White House or any governmental official are critically analyzed before re-forwarding them.

"All mail that is sent to the White House is irradiated," McKiernan said. "There is a lab in New Jersey that we personally take it to." While the process of irradiation is a



George Bridges (MCT)

Mail that is addressed to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue goes through an intense screening process before it ever arrives to the president's mailbox. It is first taken to a lab in New Jersey where the mail is irradiated.

safety precaution, most materials such as film and computer disks can be destroyed after being exposed to the radiation. McKiernan explained that the irradiation process is a necessary safety measurement and after it is complete, the Washington post office picks it up and from then on it is out of their hands. "White House officials come and pick the mail up from us; from then on, we don't touch it," McKiernan said.

The White House has its own postal mail room that is highly protected by staff members and security. Under the "contact us" section of the White House official Web site, there are specific guidelines for materials sent to the White House. The Web site states that all materials sent will be put through a screening test and that some items can be harmed or damaged through this process. Food, flowers and any perishable items are not accepted.

Ferguson's letter never made it through to the screening processes, but she has not given up on getting her message to the president. Instead of the old post office way, Ferguson plans to use e-mail. "This time I'll send an e-mail," she said. "Though he may not respond, at least it will be there. And, at least I won't have to worry about forgetting the stamp this time."

MOTHERLAND MONDAYS

Country Spotlight: Benin

Benin, located off the shore of the Atlantic Ocean, was formerly known as Dahomey, and according to BBC.com, is one of Africa's most stable democracies. It has an abundance of political parties and a strong civil society. However, the country is still economically under-developed. Benin's shore used to be known as the "Slave Coast" because many people were captured there and shipped across the Atlantic. Once colonized by France, Benin fully gained their independence in 1960. Thomas Yayi Boni is the president of Benin, and he ran on a platform that promised to revive the economy and rid the country of corruption. Freedom of the media in Benin is also said to be in very good shape.

Information courtesy of BBC.com

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

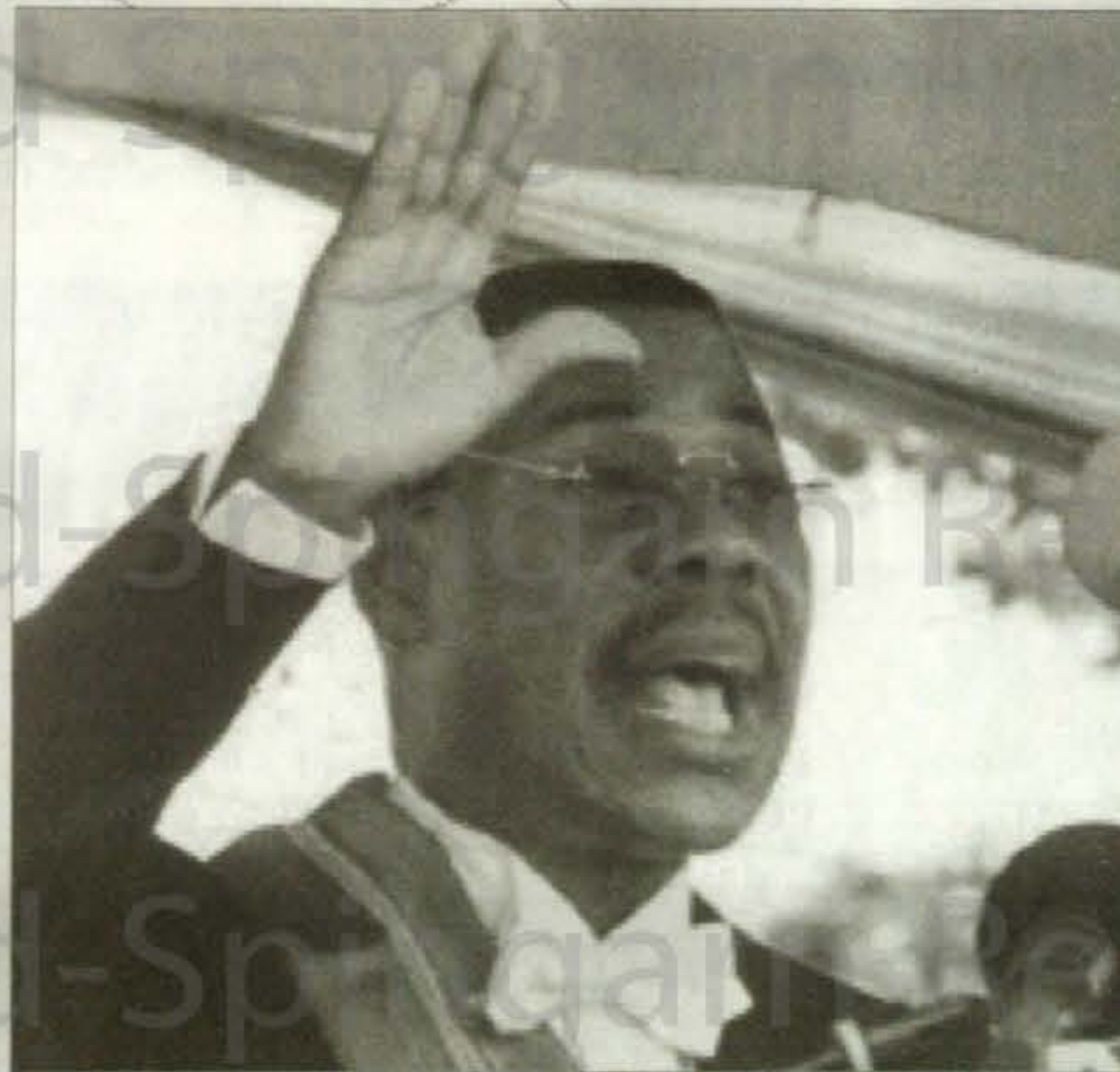


Image Courtesy of AfricaSuccess.org

Yayi Boni, president of Benin, was elected in 2006 and ran on a platform of promises to revitalize the economy and reduce corruption in the government.

Continental Briefs

- According to the Nigerian health ministry, the death toll from a contaminated baby medicine has risen from 34 in December to 84 in February. A reported 111 children have fallen ill after ingesting "My Pikin" teething syrup. The tainted medicine has been causing organ failure in babies, after officials discovered that the mixture contained engine coolant. The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) shut down the Lagos-based manufacturer. Nigerian Health Minister Babatunde Osotimehin said, "Government will leave no stone unturned to find answers to the many questions being asked by Nigerians and also ensure that such unfortunate incidents do not occur again."
- Yoweri Museveni, the president of Uganda, is auctioning off dozens of cattle, sheep and goats in an effort to raise money for government projects. According to BBC.com, the 117 cattle, 26 sheep and 10 goats will be sold at an auction planned for Thursday, Feb. 19. All the animals being auctioned are animals that were given as gifts to the president.
- Six Moroccan children were killed this past week when heavy snowfall caused their house to cave in. According to BBC news, eight others were killed in similar incidents.
- Police killed at least 23 people in Madagascar during an opposition demonstration in the nation's capital of Antananarivo. BBC.com says there have been repeated protests against the dismissal of Antananarivo mayor Andry Rajoelina, who is engaged in a power struggle with the president.
- The Soweto Gospel Choir, a choir made up of untrained singers from South Africa, was up for their third Grammy award.

Information Courtesy of BBC.com

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

Alex Rodriguez Tested Positive for Steroids in 2003

BY SAM MELLINGER
McClatchy Newspapers

In 2002, the Rangers put together a beefy, bulky heart of the lineup that was supposed to intimidate pitchers by recreating the 1920s New York Yankees' famed "Murderers' Row."

Though they lost 90 games, the Rangers did lead the majors in home runs with a whopping 230, and shortstop Alex Rodriguez, who was the AL leader with 57.

Now, nearly seven years later, a potential nickname is emerging for the quartet of Rodriguez, Juan Gonzalez, Rafael Palmeiro and Ivan Rodriguez: "Injectors' Row."

On Saturday, when *Sports Illustrated* (*SI*) reported that Alex Rodriguez had tested positive for steroids in 2003 while with the Rangers, it completed the quartet. All four players have either been implicated or tested positive for illegal steroid use.

Ivan Rodriguez and Gonzalez have both been connected anecdotally via reports. Palmeiro was suspended in 2005, after testing positive for stanozolol, a synthetic anabolic steroid, and remains the most accomplished proven user.

The *SI* report, citing four unnamed sources, said Rodriguez tested positive for the steroids testosterone and Primobolan during MLB's period of anonymous survey testing.

"I'm shocked," said Tom Hicks, team owner of the Rangers. Hicks, however, declined further comment.

"This *SI* report is the first I've heard of it (Alex Rodriguez's test)," said Jon Daniels, Rangers general manager who began working for the Rangers in baseball operations in 2002. "When the testing took place in 2003, it was confidential, and nothing was ever communicated to clubs. It's hard for me to make any comment on a report that I've never seen."

Asked if the Rangers had any suspicions that Rodriguez was using steroids during the 2003 season, when he won a Most Valuable Player award, Daniels said, "It was not a topic of conversation."

Fernando Montes, who served as the team's strength coach from 2003 to '05, disputed that.

In a telephone interview Saturday evening, Montes said that Daniels approached him in a golf cart during spring training 2003 and asked, "Do you

think Alex is on steroids?"

Montes said that he replied, "My suspicion is yes. There is some chemical issue here."

Montes said he based his opinion on his experience as a strength coach and on Rodriguez's distaste for tough workouts. In other words, the player's strength gains were coming the easy way. Montes said the conversation with Daniels lasted roughly 30 seconds.

Daniels, who was an entry-level baseball operations assistant at the time, said he has no recollection of such a conversation with Montes. Daniels' first move upon becoming general manager in 2005 was to fire Montes.

In 2003, the league tested players to determine whether further action in the form of a suspension system was necessary. According to the *SI* report, 104 players tested positive among the 1,198 who were tested. According to a major league source, players who tested positive were informed of the positive result. In 2004, the league and MLB Players Association agreed to institute punishments for positive tests.

Since the institution of the official policy, the Rangers have been among the most proactive organizations in baseball, Daniels said. The club's education policy for minor leaguers, headed by Dr. Jay Hoffman, was cited in the 2007 report following Sen. George Mitchell's independent investigation of steroids in baseball.

"We've been among the industry leaders," Daniels said. "The reports and allegations are certainly not limited to one club. It's an industry-wide issue."

Other clubs that have had a large number of high-profile players connected to steroids include Oakland and Baltimore. And the litany of steroid-related stories keeps trickling out of the game, five years after the testing was implemented. Last month, Mark McGwire was shut out of the Hall of Fame voting for the second consecutive time. In the last week, there have been developments linking Roger Clemens' blood to steroid-tainted syringes in the possession of his former trainer, and there were more allegations in the never-ending anthology of Barry Bonds' steroid-related stories.

But McGwire, Clemens and Bonds are all out of the game now. The Rodriguez accusations put the game's top superstar smack dab in the middle of the steroid circus.

"We are disturbed by the



Sharon M. Stennett (AP)

A recent report from *Sports Illustrated* revealed that in 2003 Alex Rodriguez tested positive for steroids. However, during the time the test was administered, testosterone and Primobolan were not banned in Major League Baseball.

allegations contained in the *Sports Illustrated* news story which was posted online this morning," Rob Manfred, MLB executive vice president for labor relations, said in a statement Saturday.

"Because the survey testing that took place in 2003 was intended to be non-disciplinary and anonymous, we cannot make any comment on the accuracy of this report as it pertains to the player named," said Manfred. "Based on the results of the 2003 tests, Major League Baseball was able to institute a mandatory random-testing program with penalties in 2004. Major League Baseball and the Players Association have improved the drug testing program on several occasions so that it is now the toughest program in professional sports. The program bans stimulants, such as amphetamines, as well as steroids."

After receiving confirmation from a number of sources, *SI* dispatched a reporter Thursday to confront Rodriguez at a Miami gym. He declined to comment and directed all questions to the Players Association. The Players Association had issued no statement by mid-day.

Asked about an explanation for the positive test, Rodriguez told the reporter, "I'm not saying anything."

Said Rangers third baseman Michael Young, who locked next to Rodriguez in 2003, "This whole thing

is unfortunate, but that doesn't change that Alex is the most gifted player I've ever played with. Nobody works harder or prepares better than he does. As far as 2003 goes, I never saw any (steroids) or heard him talk about it. My only role here is to support Alex."

Buck Showalter, who managed the Rangers in 2003 and is now a baseball analyst at ESPN, said on the TV network Saturday that the club had no knowledge of test results when Rodriguez was traded.

"At that time, managers, GMs and coaches were there to manage and coach the players," Showalter said. "I'm not here to convict or to say somebody is innocent or what have you. I like to let things run their course, but at the same time, you realize it's potentially a very sticky, ugly situation for the Yankees and Alex going into spring training."

According to *SI*, Rodriguez's test results were discovered after federal agents seized the 2003 test results from Comprehensive Drug Testing Inc. of Long Beach, Calif. It was one of two labs used by MLB in connection with the 2003 survey testing. The seizure, executed under a search warrant, took place in April 2004 as part of the government's investigation into 10 major league players linked to the BALCO (Bay Area Lab Cooperative) scandal. Rodriguez has

never been connected to BALCO.

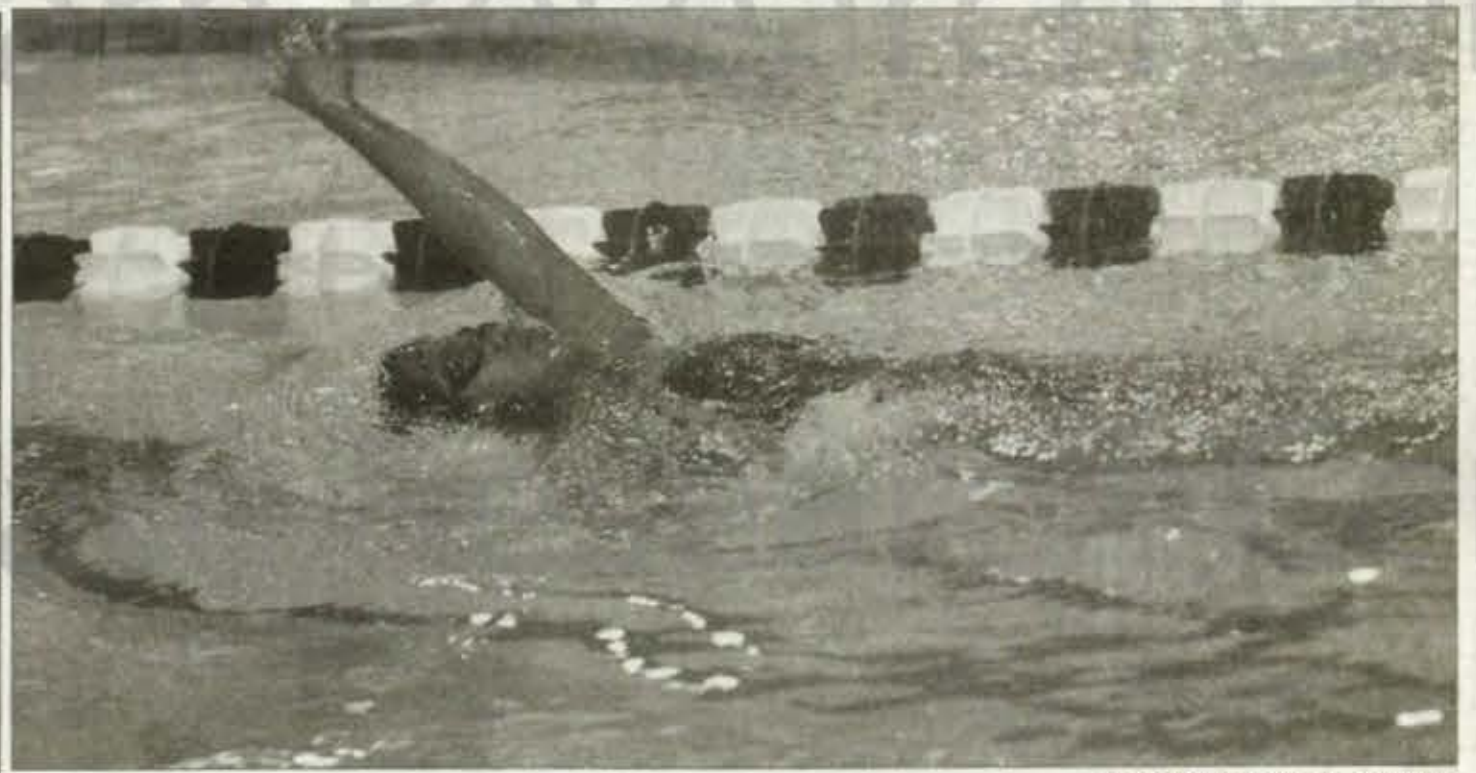
One of the drugs he reportedly tested positive for, Primobolan, is supposed to help improve strength and maintain lean muscle with minimal bulk development. *SI* reported that former New York Mets clubhouse attendant Kirk Radomski, who pled guilty in 2007 to illegally distributing steroids to major leaguers, described in his recent book, "Bases Loaded: The Inside Story of the Steroid Era in Baseball by the Central Figure in the Mitchell Report," how players increasingly turned to drugs such as Primobolan in 2003. Part of the attraction was that Primobolan is detectable for a shorter period of time than other previously favored steroids. Citing FDA records, *SI* reported Primobolan is not an approved prescription drug in the United States, nor was it in 2003.

Rodriguez joined the Rangers for the 2001 season on a 10-year, \$252 million contract, then the richest in American sports history. He proceeded to lead the AL in home runs in all three years with Texas, including 57 in 2002. During Rodriguez's three seasons in Texas, he averaged 52 home runs per year. Since going to New York for the 2004 season, which coincided with the institution of steroid penalties, Rodriguez has averaged 41.6 home runs.

A Busy Day at Burr Gymnasium Ends With Two Victories



Oscar Merida IV - Contributing Photographer



Oscar Merida IV - Contributing Photographer

Saturday, Feb. 7 was a hectic day for Burr gymnasium. It played host to three different events. At 2 p.m., the Lady Bison basketball team took on the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) Hawks. The Lady Bison were defeated by the Hawks 54-49. April McBride led UMES in scoring with 20 points. Zykia Brown led the Bison in scoring with 12 points.

At 3 p.m., Burr welcomed Florida A&M and North Carolina A&T to the swimming pool for the HBCU swimming championships. The Bison did well at the tournament. The men's swimming team finished first; the women's team lost despite strong performances, due to a shortage of swimmers.

The last game of the evening was the men's basketball game. The Bison took on the UMES Hawks also. They avenged HU's women's team loss with a 72-65 win over the Hawks. Senior Bison guard Eugene Myatt led the team in scoring with 22 points.

"We were matching basket for basket at one point," said Gil Jackson, HU head coach. "We were able to get some stops when we needed them. Curtis, CJ and Gene were able to hit some key shots."

Both Bison basketball teams will be in action tonight against the Delaware State Hornets. Tip-off is at 6 p.m. in Burr.

— Compiled by Deontay Morris, Sports Editor

Sports Trivia!
Who was Dirk Nowitzki traded to the Dallas Mavericks in exchange for?

Answer:
Robert "Tractor" Taylor and Pat Garrity.

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

February 9, 1935

Boxer Joe Louis defeats Arturo Godoy in 15 rounds for the heavyweight boxing title.

Courtesy of www.todayinsports.com

THE HILLTOP



OUR TIME IS NOW

Come Join Us

at the

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March 9-14, 2009


In Winston-Salem, NC

Tickets on sale at Cramton Auditorium Box Office

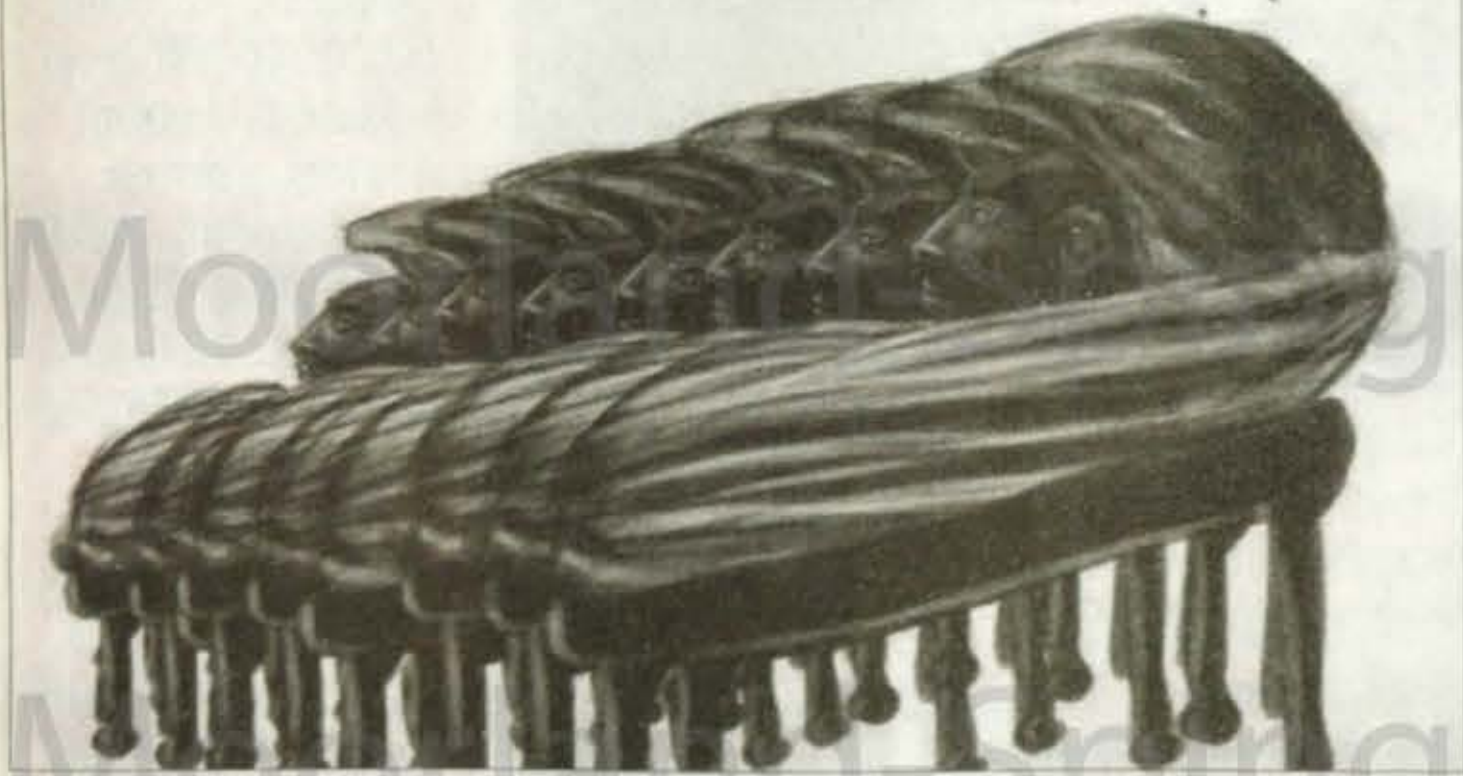
A week filled with fun and activities!

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

by wearing **PINK** garments to the basketball games in the BURRRRRRR during the month of February. During this month, Burr Gymnasium will be considered the "Pink Zone". The STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE as a fundraiser will also be selling pink ribbons (25 cents) in support of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. 

Maybe try bottle feeding first...



Charles Metz III © Cartoonist

Mother Obsessed With Having Children Gives Birth to Eight

Many people dream of big families and having lots of children, but Nadya Suleman's choice to become pregnant through in vitro fertilization is different than the typical American dream. Last month, Suleman gave birth to octuplets after already having six children.

Although Suleman might be a fit mother, her motives behind having so many children under her current living conditions are questionable.

The octuplets' birth was only the second time in American history that all eight of the babies survived. An ethical debate has erupted, due to the circumstances of this case and for many reasons, the debate is warranted.

Nobody has the right to determine the size of a family, but the multiple births violates the guidelines of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine. After learning that she was pregnant with seven children, Suleman rejected the idea of aborting some of the embryos. Doctors did not learn about the eighth child until during the cesarean section when the last baby was discovered. Fertility doctors are supposed to monitor the egg count during in vitro fertilization and stop the medication if too many eggs develop. In

this case, the doctor did not stop the medication. The doctor's identity remains undisclosed.

In addition to the guideline violation, Suleman lives with her parents and six other children in a one-story home and reportedly

tistic child, before the octuplets. A friend of hers is rumored to have donated the sperm to fertilize the eggs for all 14 children.

"I wanted to be a mom. That's all I ever wanted in my life," said Suleman when asked about her most recent pregnancy on NBC's "The Today Show." She was even aware that planting as many embryos as she did violated certain medical guidelines and considered it to be a gamble that turned out perfectly.

Since giving birth to the octuplets, Suleman has hired a publicist to handle TV and book offers. She is seeking to sell her story to media moguls like Oprah Winfrey and Diane Sawyer. Suleman's own mother has even consulted with a psychologist to discuss her child's obsession with children.

Her father is reportedly returning to his native country of Iraq to become a translator and driver which will leave Suleman's mother and herself to take care of the children. If her plan to sell her story and commercialize her motherhood does not work, it is hard to project what will happen to the 14 children. The media will soon tire over this obsession with children and determine, like we at *The Hilltop* have already done, that she is doing the MOST.

Our View:

Motherhood should not be sought for publicity purposes.

filed for bankruptcy. Records indicate that Suleman gained a psychiatric technician's license and worked at a state mental hospital, but is currently unemployed. She was injured in a riot at the hospital and has received disability for over six years.

The age-old taboo of unwed motherhood is also being debated, since Suleman is unmarried. There are many great mothers and fathers who have chosen to raise their kids alone and it is not up to society to determine whether or not this is a fit lifestyle.

But, Suleman has 14 children, all of which do not have a father around. Suleman already had one set of twins and an au-

Perspective

Ideology can only take us so far

At the forum on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009, featured speakers Dr. Greg Carr, Associate Afro-American Studies professor at Howard University; Dr. Ron Walters, political strategist, author and professor; and Austen Thompson, head of Howard University's political action committee, spoke about the Obama campaign and the significance of his election as the first African-American president of the United States.

The responses to each question presented to the panelists centered on ideology and how we sometimes let it cloud our perception of what actually exists. Of course, political strategists sometimes use this to their advantage during campaigns, but this is becoming a serious problem in every aspect of American life. I was reading, "Dogmas and Dreams," which speaks of this very same thing.

These dreams are things that we depend on when we seek to be nothing more than passive aggressive. That is what has happened to the black civil rights movement. I hear people talk of how we have already come to terms with the racial disparities in this country.

This is far from true. However, we don't have to become cynical and passive in the pursuit

of equality. We just have to fight harder. I was a bit shocked when the floor was open to questions and one student quoted something from the Obama campaign mocking it as "this Change-You-Can-Believe-In-garbage." I can understand that a lot of blacks are still wary of Barack Obama's ability to "fix" our economy, and I can only say that you should be.

If you ever did believe in Barack Obama more than your own ability to create change, then you should be afraid. A lot of us are going to graduate in the next few years with these esteemed Howard degrees seeking those corporate jobs in the same white America that has initiated destruction into our communities.

Furthered by our own people, we further encourage the process by assimilating, rather than becoming beacons of change ourselves. We students, our families, everyone, we need to go out to those streets (the same street that so many of us come from) and foster social change.

I was walking down one of those streets last Tuesday and I was fiddling with a quarter in my pocket. I waved hello to this homeless man, turned around and gave it to him because he needed it and I had it to give. My grandmother

taught me to live this way. This is how black people existed when we only had ourselves. The man told me that there are 1,440 minutes in a day and that I should "do the math."

We saw each other again two days afterwards and he even remembered my major! he reminded me to remember that always. He was reminding me that I had a choice of how I used my time. I appreciate those small bits of wisdom that so many people overlook, because wisdom is solid; it's based on experience, ideology isn't. Dreams can only take us so far.

We need to stop assimilating and be proactive in bringing about social and economic change within our own communities because white, corporate America isn't going to do it. We need to do it because aside from all of its problems, Howard is a wonderful stepping stone. We students can reinvigorate Howard's legacy and break the cycle of passivity and insensitivity towards own communities. Most of all, we need to do it because I'd like to be invited to that guy's home one day for dinner.

- Shakeema Smalls
freshman, psychology major

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

**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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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.

Submit your perspective to

hilltopeditorials@gmail.com

The Hilltop prints everyday. 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 Brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Alpha Chapter Present: Black Love Week

Monday February 9, 2009 Date Auction Blackburn Gallery Lounge 7:14 PM

Join the Howard University College Republicans as we discuss GOP Chairman Michael Steele Wednesday 2/11 Locke Hall Room 236 7:00 PM

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

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

Howard Chapter, NAACP would like to invite the Howard Community to Celebrate 100 years of collective progress!!!
Sunday: Call to Chapel
Monday: The Miseducation of the African American child Founders Browsing Room 7PM
Tuesday: Centennial Celebration Carnegie Building 6PM ALL ARE WELCOME!
Wednesday: The Healing Mind's Initiative with Author Steve Johnson 7PM Blackburn Forum
Thursday: HAPPY BIRTHDAY NAACP!!! 100 Years of Progress!
Thursday: Silent Killers The deadly diseases that are affecting our people 7PM Room TBA
Saturday: Black Love: Uplifting our community Community Service Project TBA

HU College Democrats & 25 Magazine Model Call February 10, 2009 7-10 PM in Reading Lounge of Blackburn \$5 Audition Fee Bring Heels

HU Tube Debate 2/11/09 at 7:00 p.m. in the Blackburn Ballroom

Write-in Applications for General Elections due 2/11/09 Suite 116 in Blackburn

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>.

What To Do @ HU



INSIDE THE INSIDE



The United States has more people locked behind bars than any country. Most of those people are African American. Black men and women are six times more likely to be locked up than white men and women. Sanho Tree, a fellow and director of the Drug Policy Project at the Institute for Policy Studies, explains why with, "Addicted to Failure: Why the Drug War Has Failed and Prospects for Reform." **Tue, 3:30 p.m., Founders Library, Rm 300-A. Free**

SIREN SONGS

Connaitre Miller, is an associate professor and coordinator of Jazz Studies. Jessica Boykin-Settles and Terri Davis also teach vocals in the music department. And they sing like crazy, having performed in D.C., and in jazz festivals in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee and Pennsylvania. **Wed, 12 p.m., Blackburn Center, Art Gallery. Free**



MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

Tuition is expensive, and money is hard to come by. But there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and it isn't the oncoming train. The Financial Aid office is holding a FAFSA workshop to provide tips on how to accurately complete the process so you can get more money. **Wed, 3:30 p.m., Blackburn Center, Forum. Free**

MR. RIGHT, NOT MR. RIGHT NOW

What did Beyonce say? "All my single ladies, put your hands up!" The Rev. David N. Wright Sr., Ph.D., says he has the answer to many a woman's desires, and he has written it all down in *How to Find Your Man and Receive Freedom From the Bondage of Waiting*. According to Wright, his book teaches, through the word of God, where to find the right man, how to recognize him and how to love him. You decide for yourself. **Wed, 4 p.m., Howard University Bookstore. Free**



CLIMBING OUT OF DEBT

You've maxed out your five credit cards and have no money to pay them. Harrine Freeman, a member of Credit Professionals International and the American Association of Daily Money Managers and author of *How to Get Out of Debt: Get an A Credit Rating for Free* may have a few answers. Freeman, will discuss how to repair credit and maintain it and share her own story of how she was \$19,000 in debt while earning \$21,000 a year but turned things around. **Thu, 5 p.m., Howard University Bookstore. Free**

TONI MORRISON RETURNS HOME

Howard University salutes Nobel Prize-winning author and alumna Toni Morrison with a day-long event as the University celebrates the 15th annual Heart Day Conference. Morrison, who also won a Pulitzer Prize for her work, will be reading and discussing her new book, *A Mercy*, during a series of events. **Fri, 8:30 a.m., Blackburn Center. Free; Gala, 7:30 p.m., Blackburn Center. \$125.00**



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For more of What To Do @ HU, visit www.howard.edu, and go to the iLab to secure your howard.edu email address.