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Established
1924



THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO. 88

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Tuesday's Notebook

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

FIND OUT WHICH POPULAR COFFEE SHOP HAS EVEN CUT BACK DURING THE RECESSION.

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UDC WILL OPEN THE DISTRICT'S FIRST COMMUNITY COLLEGE THIS SUMMER. FIND OUT MORE.

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LIFE & STYLE

LEARN ABOUT A 'BEAUTIFUL' CAMPAIGN TARGETED TOWARD AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN OF ALL AGES.

PAGE 6

Board of Trustees Approves Five-Year Tuition Plan

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON
Staff Writer

Starting next semester, Howard University tuition rates will increase by 7.5 percent for undergraduate programs and 10 percent for graduate programs.

According to Interim Provost Alvin Thornton, Ph.D., letters will be sent out in late spring to inform students and parents of the fiscal changes at the university for the upcoming semester.

The Board of Trustees approved the Tuition and Rates Advisory Committee's suggested five-year (2009 to 2014) tuition rate plan as submitted with no changes.

Beginning next fall, tuition will be \$15,270 for undergraduate programs and, by 2010, \$21,995 for graduate programs.

The Board also approved a 7.1 percent increase for room and board for the next school year.

While approving the five-year tuition rate plan, the Board only set the first two years into operation while questions were raised about cost containment for the third, fourth and fifth years.

While Howard University falls behind other universities' and colleges' in tuition revenue, according to Senior Vice President and Secretary Artis

Hampshire-Cowan, there needs to be an increase in tuition, but also a way to eliminate some of the costs.

According to Hampshire-Cowan, before the Board sets years three through five into action, there needs to be a cost containment plan and evidence of using cost containment at Howard.

"There needs to be focus on how we are going to be more efficient and focus on savings than just increasing revenue," Hampshire-Cowan said.

She said, "A further analysis on implications of tuition rates on enrollment and retention and ensuring that need-based aid is available to students."

With only merit-based finan-

cial aid available to students as of now, Thornton said the next school year will implement a need-based scholarship program for students who are highly qualified but have financial needs.

He said he plans to close the gap at Howard in the number of qualified students and economic pay.

According to Thornton, the need-based aid will be given to the students with the largest gap by using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and also a form from the university to supplement FAFSA.

"This is very different for Howard in terms of creating a need-based financial aid distribution system to sup-

plement our merit-based distribution," Thornton said.

"A student with a 3.2 average and a 1,000 on the SAT could get accepted to Howard and be a needy student," Thornton said, "but right now, that student could not necessarily get Howard University money."

Thornton said the assets to fund the need-based aid would come from various sources such as tuition and fees, private donors, federal appropriation and endowment.

According to Chief Financial Officer Sidney H. Evans, the distribution and amount of aid has yet to be

> See **TUITION**, page 3

No 'Kiss Kiss' for Chris Brown, Rihanna

Altercation between young celebrity couple brings attention to domestic violence

BY ALEESA MANN
Life & Style Editor

Pop star couple Chris Brown, 19, and Rihanna, 20, were set to perform at the 51st Grammy Awards ceremony Feb. 8, but what was supposed to be a day of celebration was interrupted by an altercation that led to Brown's arrest.

While details are still unresolved, the Los Angeles Police Department received a call at 12:30 a.m. reporting a violent altercation that had taken place on Hancock Park Street in Los Angeles. Police reported a woman with visible injuries claimed Brown was her attacker. Robyn Rihanna Fenty has been named as the alleged victim.

Brown later turned himself in and was arrested on felony charges of suspicion of making criminal threats. He later posted \$50,000 bail.

While the details of Brown's case may be shocking, Sheryl Cates, CEO of

the National Domestic violence hotline and the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline, finds it is evidence of a larger trend.

"I think that it's just a representative of what's going on nationally," Cates said.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), one in four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime, with females ages 20 to 24 at the greatest risk of experiencing intimate-partner violence.

"While they are celebrities, they still represent the general public and bring another level of attention to this issue — which is needed," Cates said.

Ken Noyes, executive director of the D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence, agrees and finds that although the relationship has made a tragic turn, it is a good time for the media to educate the public on issues of domestic violence.

"The media should partner with the experts in the field but really be more proactive about partnering with domestic violence and sexual assault issues so that when there are high profile cases like this, they know what messaging to use in order to shine a light on the issue," Noyes said.

The NCADV has found that domestic violence is one of the most underreported crimes, with only one-fourth of all physical assaults being reported to the police.

The NCADV also reports that 85 percent of domestic violence victims are women, and each year, 1.3 million women report instances of physical assault by an intimate partner.

In lieu of the allegations, Cates points to Brown's past history with domestic violence.

> See **FIGHT**, page 6



Ferdady Okoro - Staff Photographer

Food Corner, more commonly known as Kabob & Rotisserie, has relocated to a building just a few doors down from its original location to save money and attract more customers.

R&B Group Promotes New Album, Greets Students in the Punchout



Ferdady Okoro - Staff Photographer

The celebratory vibe from last week's events in the Punchout carried the same enthusiasm today when Def Jam's newest group, Brutha came to campus Monday.

With a claim to fame from their BET show "Brothers to Brutha," and their hit single, "I Can't Hear the Music," the quintet of brothers conversed with students, took photos and signed autographs while snippets of their CD played in the background.

"They were so down to earth," said sophomore film major Jessica Diaz. "People felt comfortable laughing and talking with them."

The event was hosted by WHBC. Brutha's self-titled album is in stores now.

- Linsey Isaacs, Asst. Campus Editor

Local Business Relocates To Fit Current Economy

BY RALPH KINDRED II
Contributing Writer

The strip of retail stores and restaurants on Georgia Avenue, known as Howard Row, has seen its fair share of businesses come and go. One business has moved out, but only to be reintroduced a few doors down.

Javed Ikbar and Muhammad Khan, the owners of Food Corner, have spent the last month reworking some key components of their business model in order to survive the current economy and draw in more customers.

The pungent aroma of exotic spices excite a diverse line of students and professionals grabbing a quick bite to eat.

Their ears tune in on foreign dialects competing with the sound of meats and vegetables being fed to the grill.

Some may feel at home in the new space, which is lined with the red and white tiled walls of its previous owners, but there are no more Five Guys menu items on these walls.

Most dishes at the restaurant are atypical to American cuisine and will take your palette to the distant Middle East.

The recipes draw inspiration from Khan's home land of Kashmir, with influences from Iran and other neighboring countries in that area.

Thandeka Dlodlo was intimidated by the old location's unfamiliar menu, but

was pleasantly surprised to find that their food really isn't all that different after all when she stopped by the re-opened restaurant.

"This food is delicious," she said.

The junior radio-television-film major's appetite was easily roused by intensity of flavor she experienced when she bit into her very first burger at the Food Corner.

As much as Dlodlo enjoyed the food, her only gripe was that she might not be able to afford it on a regular basis.

Still, Khan, a 40-year-old Northern Virginia resident, has been happy to see new customers.

"Since we opened last Friday, business has been really good, very busy," Khan said.

Food Corner has only moved a few retail spaces down from the prior location of Unit H of 2301 Georgia Avenue, to Unit A, which is only four retail spaces away.

Khan explained that while it may seem odd to move the short distance, it was necessary to sustain the business.

At its previous location, the "Food Corner" sign wasn't very visible.

In addition to new signage and neon scrolling displays, the owners also brought in a large flat-screen television, which is mounted on the register countertop.

> See **HALAL**, page 4



For an entire week, residents of the Bethune Annex had to travel to the main cafeteria in the Blackburn Center due to the facilities in their dormitory failing to meet health regulations. The water in the Annex's cafe was determined not to be hot enough to sanitize.

Feridey Okoru - Staff Photographer

Annex Cafe Doors Reopen After Meeting Health Regulations

BY KYRA GRANT
Contributing Writer

After a week of unexpected cafeteria closings, Bethune Annex residents can finally dine on a regular basis.

The Annex cafeteria first closed its doors to residents on Jan. 24, after employees noticed that temperatures of the water used in the kitchen had fallen significantly lower than those required by D.C. Department of Health regulations.

Regulations require water to be at certain temperatures, to ensure all germs are killed in food preparation.

The regulations require staff members to log temperatures several times throughout the day, and they identified the problem early that morning. The cafe was then closed for the remainder of the weekend.

Physical & Facility Man-

agement (PHM) workers were immediately notified.

"The hand and pot sinks must be at a temperature of 110 degrees Fahrenheit, and the final rinse dish machine must be at 180 degrees in order to kill germs," said Ellen Early, general manager for Dining Services.

She added that the closings were simply protocol.

Signs were posted in the lobby of the residence hall alerting students to the cafe closing, but no specific reason was given to students.

"I don't know why the cafe has been shut down frequently," said Cierra Haynes, a sophomore human development major. "Are there mice?"

On Feb. 4, the Dining Service Advisory Board, comprised of Sodexo management, advisory from the campus and members of Howard University Student Association (HUSA), held a meeting to discuss the Bethune Annex

cafeteria closings.

Students were encouraged by cafeteria management to send complaints through HUSA.

"Service should come first, and communication is a large part of service," said Victoria Phifer, a sophomore health management major. "The details of the situation have never been communicated to the residents who are all Sodexo's paying customers."

Managers from dining services note safety risks as the primary reason for the closings.

"With flu season in full swing, if employees cannot properly sanitize their hands and dishes cannot be properly sanitized, viruses can't be killed," Early said.

With five straight days of cafeteria closings, employees of the Annex cafeteria were sent to the campus' main dining hall to service the students affected by the Annex cafe closing.

"It's so disappointing walking downstairs to eat breakfast and

find the cafe is closed," Haynes said. "I pay extra money [to live in the] Annex because of the convenience of the cafe and I haven't been able to utilize it."

Although Annex residents were encouraged to dine in the main cafeteria, many residents found ordering in more convenient. "Eating in the main cafe is inconvenient for me. The lines are way too long and seating is limited," said Tsighe Foster, a broadcast journalism major. "I would rather order a pizza to save time."

Campus PHM workers were sent out to repair the water issue on more than one occasion.

"This is an aging system and you may repair one thing and another may very well malfunction," said Margo Smith, assistant vice president of Auxiliary Enterprises.

Early said their first responsibility is to the health and well being of the students.

HUB Serves Books 'A La Carte' Style

BY ASHLEY JOHNSON-ALFORD
Staff Writer

Two pairs of shoes. A month's worth of food. A utility bill. These are all items that the money a student spends on textbooks in the bookstore could go towards. And some of these textbooks are not even bound.

Instead, they are packaged as a group of pages to be kept in a binder or folder. This new method is called "a la carte" and has become the method of distribution for a few common books, including Intro. to Psychology and most Algebra and Trigonometry books for a lower price.

Cheryl Roberson, an HUB employee, is in charge of monitoring the sales of textbooks, deciding the quantity to order and ordering the textbooks, and explained why the books are now "a la carte."

"First, the teacher decides on the book they want to use for the class," Roberson said. "Then, they send us the ISBN number and we contact the publishers. They will usually contact the teachers letting them know that an 'a la carte' version is available."

From there, it is the teacher's decision on whether or not to order the book bound or unbound and, for the most part, the teachers choose the "a la carte" versions.

"The teachers love the 'a la carte' because sometimes they only use certain chapters out of the book anyway," Roberson said.

But, some students disagree on the decision to instate the "a la carte" textbooks.

"I had to get the math book last semester and I hate the unbound books," said Aaron Harris, a freshman undecided major. "They are not real books and we have to use them a lot. The pages get missing and you have to buy a binder. They are just a hassle."

Harris has followed the consensus of students who have simply chosen to buy a binder for the unbound books, to prevent them from losing pages or falling apart.

"I had to buy the psychology book and I just had it in a binder, but the whole idea [of 'a la carte' books] is ridiculous," said Jasmine Tate, a junior psychology major. "I am not okay with paying what I am paying for a book that isn't even bound. I would rather have it bound and pay more than be worried about losing pages."

This is the ongoing struggle for Roberson, who has to constantly analyze the sales of textbooks, whether bound or unbound, to know how many to order.

"What we do when we first offer the 'a la carte' book is we order an equal amount of both the bound and the unbound to see which one sells more," she said. "Then, we look at the sales and we adjust our next order according to what sells. Maybe next time we will order more unbound and less bound if the unbound sold more."

This is a constant project to ensure that every student is happy with their selection and is able to get the book they prefer.

"Most students who are looking to keep their books usually purchase the bound books," Roberson said. "But, those who are just looking to get the book quickly use it and get rid of it usually go for the 'a la carte' books."

Either way, the "a la carte" books were designed to help students purchase the books they need for a lower price.

"The book becomes more expensive if you bind it. If you have the same pages, in the same order, just without a spine, they come out to be cheaper," Roberson said. "Teachers like that. They want it to be cheaper for students so that they will be able to afford the books they need for class."

If students have any further questions, they're encouraged to contact Roberson in the bookstore for more clarification.

"I always want to explain these types of things to students so that they understand what they are paying for," Roberson said.

A Day in the Life...

Sinkfield Serves University With Economic Leadership, Encouragement to Peers

BY KIMBERLY JACOBS
Contributing Writer

When it comes to Jessica Sinkfield's daily activities, there are many areas of involvement that she's been able to maintain for the past few years.

Sinkfield, a senior economics major, works for the Department of Justice full-time and serves as the president of the Economic Society and has been since sophomore year.

"It's something that's in my heart as an economics major," said Sinkfield.

As a freshman, seeing that the Economics Society was dormant and that students who majored in economics had to go out of their department to get some of the tools they needed such as internships, Sinkfield decided to get involved.

"It's important for us as economics majors to have opportunities and to have a society for us to voice our opinions about the betterment of the department and any concerns," she

said.

By her sophomore year, she had the club up and running with the help of a new chair in the department, William Spriggs.

She also joined the band's Flashy Flags squad with her twin sister Jennifer Sinkfield, during her sophomore year.

"Being on the squad together was a unique experience because she is definitely a hard worker," Sinkfield said. "She's a motivator, but can also make a bad situation seem fun."

Recently, she participated in the parade for President Barack Obama's inauguration with Howard University's band and also volunteered for the 36th Presidential Inauguration Committee, along with carrying on her regular activities.

"She was on the go; it showed her dedication and how hard working she is," said Jennifer.

During a regular week, her day consists of working as a student clerk at the Department of Justice from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., then attending class

from 3:10 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, she attends class from 12:40 p.m. to 5 p.m., and on the weekend she volunteers at the Washington D.C. Bar Association law clinic.

To balance all her activities she said, "I have a great c-board, lunch to-go definitely, and I don't know, I've been a busy person all my life."

Sinkfield added, "I don't involve myself in something I don't enjoy."

According to Sinkfield, helping others has been a driving force in her extra curricular endeavors.

She explained that she didn't become president of the Economic Society for her own benefit.

"When I became president, I already had internships and a job, but I wanted to help others and take pride in what I was involved in," she said.

To stay balanced and motivated, she also gives credit to her family, twin sister Jennifer and God as her support system.

Tiffany Scott, a junior economics major and secretary for the Economics Society said "she's a visionary" and recalls when Sinkfield was studying for her LSAT how dedicated she still was to the organization.

"She was studying for her LSAT and still made time for us and also going to work and class," Scott said.

"When you see her on the go, it makes you want to keep going as well because she just does it," said Jennifer.



Photo Courtesy of Jessica Sinkfield

In addition to her responsibilities as president, Sinkfield also works for the Department of Justice full-time.

Of her success, Sinkfield explained that "No one does well by just sitting on their butts."

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**Yale SCHOOL OF
MANAGEMENT**

Tuition Increase Set to Impact Multiple Facets Of University, Learning

continued from FRONT, TUITION

determined and is still in the process of being worked out.

Evans said the university is making progress to improve capital facilities, but it should not be exactly tied with tuition because other sources fund capital improvement as well.

According to Undergraduate trustee Victoria Kirby, administration is working on a way for the students to participate in the budgeting process, so they can see ex-

actly where their money is going.

Kirby said she has seen more improvements in the past year, mentioning the Blackburn cafeteria renovation, the smoothie stations, technology and e-mails and new desks and chairs.

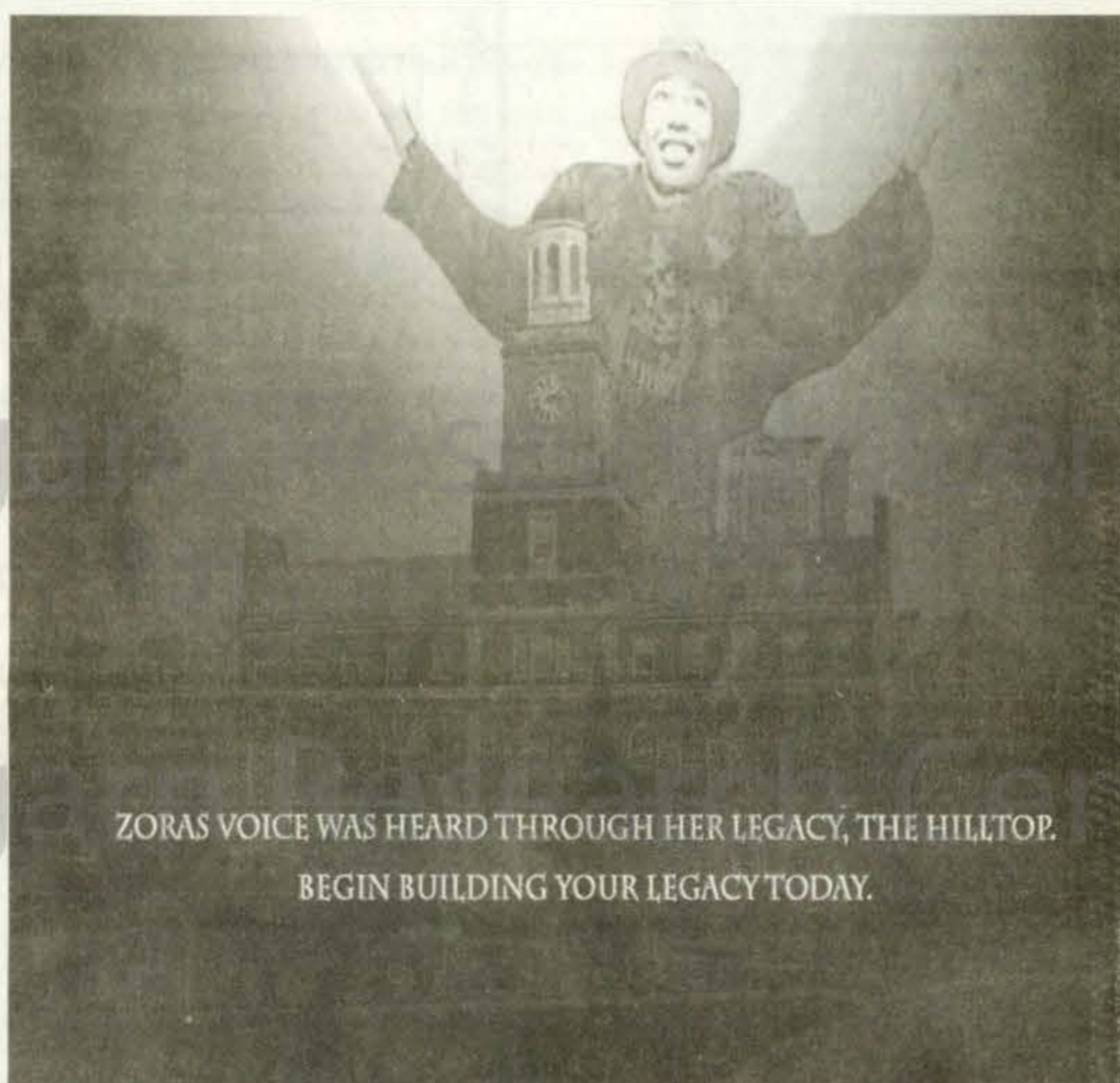
However, for the larger projects such as better facilities in the College of Medicine and improved technology in the School of Communications, more money is needed.

"Money is going [where] we desperately need it to go but

we also desperately need money," Kirby said.

Evans said there has been \$80 million spent on capital improvements that indirectly affect learning but now, the priority is to move towards projects that directly affect teaching and learning.

"We want to maintain access to the students who are qualified and then use the funds to enhance the services that the students receive," Thornton said. "That has to be the motto we put forth. We have to make sure this works."



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EXCELLENCE SINCE 1924

Food Corner Relocates to Old Five Guys

Continued from FRONT, HALAL

These were some of the upgrades necessary to attract more business in these tough economic times. Khan understands that some students may be financially strained and is doing his best to accommodate them.

"We try to have reasonable prices and good quality food," said the partial restaurant owner.

Khan and his business partner will have to wait and see if they make a return on their new investments, but he has already been advised by his neighbors on Howard and Row about what to expect.

"We just opened in the recession so we don't know yet; we opened in the slow season, I spoke to some other restaurant owners and they say compared to last year it is slow," Khan said.

Diaya Hamid is a key customer to Food Corner, as his Muslim faith has limitations on what is acceptable for consumption.

Even though the Halal preparation is fit for him, he still has had to curb his spending habits to save money in case of any shortfalls, but he agrees that the food is worth the cost.

"I would say that the prices on some of the food is a little pricey, around eight dollars. But, you're paying for the quality of the food," said Hamid.

In quality, Hamid is specifically referring to the method in which the food at the restaurant is prepared.

"People think that Halal is something

different or special; it isn't," said Khan.

"Halal" is synonymous with Kosher, meaning the meats are free of additives and when the animal is slaughtered, it is drained of its blood, which makes it fit to eat for any person of Muslim or Jewish faith.

But even with the niche of being able to attract those with specific eating constraints, there still is a bottom line.

"We couldn't afford it," said Khan in reference to the much larger space that the restaurant formerly occupied.

With a much larger space comes a hefty lease and utilities which cost too much

in overhead expenses. That, coupled with the rising cost of supplies, was cutting the profit margins too slim, which gave him no choice but to move.

Since reopening, Khan has already noticed benefits of their new location.

"Comparing this store and the last, it is a big difference; we have more business here; more people see this store walking up that way [towards campus]," he said.

Facts:

- Wonder Plaza, as a whole, was once a Wonder Bread bakery.
- The property was purchased in 1993 by Howard University for \$18.3 million.



By the Way...

Starbucks vs. McDonalds

BY LINSEY ISAACS
Asst. Campus Editor

My one vice for the past couple of years has been food. This winter, it grew into a love for caramel apple spice ciders at Starbucks. It's a bad habit that I can't seem to break, similar to some students who bear a simple craving for an ice cold latte with either a frilly name or a golden arches logo.

So once again, I must reiterate that we are in a recession (apparently, it's the common theme for my columns this semester). So far, the fast food industry is still surviving off our chump change; I wonder why? Perhaps it's the fact that food is a necessity, or like me, other consumers would spend their last dollar on a craving, or maybe it's those value menus that McDonald's spurred. And everyone's now hopping on that bandwagon, with the latter helping to save face during these rough economic times.

There's been a growing trend in consumers opting for a simple cup of coffee to save money, or even brewing their own cups at home. Spending three dollars on a fancy-art project at Starbucks can buy you a meal off the breakfast value menu at McDonalds. And Starbucks execs are very aware of this as they're feeling the pinch.

Starbucks was forced to cut back on almost 6,700 workers last week, closed some stores across the nation and stopped plans to open new ones this year.

While the government worked so hard this year to bail out Wall Street and the "Big Three" auto companies, McDonald's sales went up 7 percent worldwide and 5.4 percent here at home—a complete opposite from other suffering industries.

Now, Starbucks will introduce their new value menu...ahem. Sorry, they prefer it be called "pairings" to be introduced in March. If you purchase one of those extravagant lattes, you receive oatmeal, coffee cake or any other normally overpriced sweet breakfast treat. As a recovering Starbucks addict, I'm ecstatic about having to only purchase my tall cider every morning, while they throw in a possible bagel.

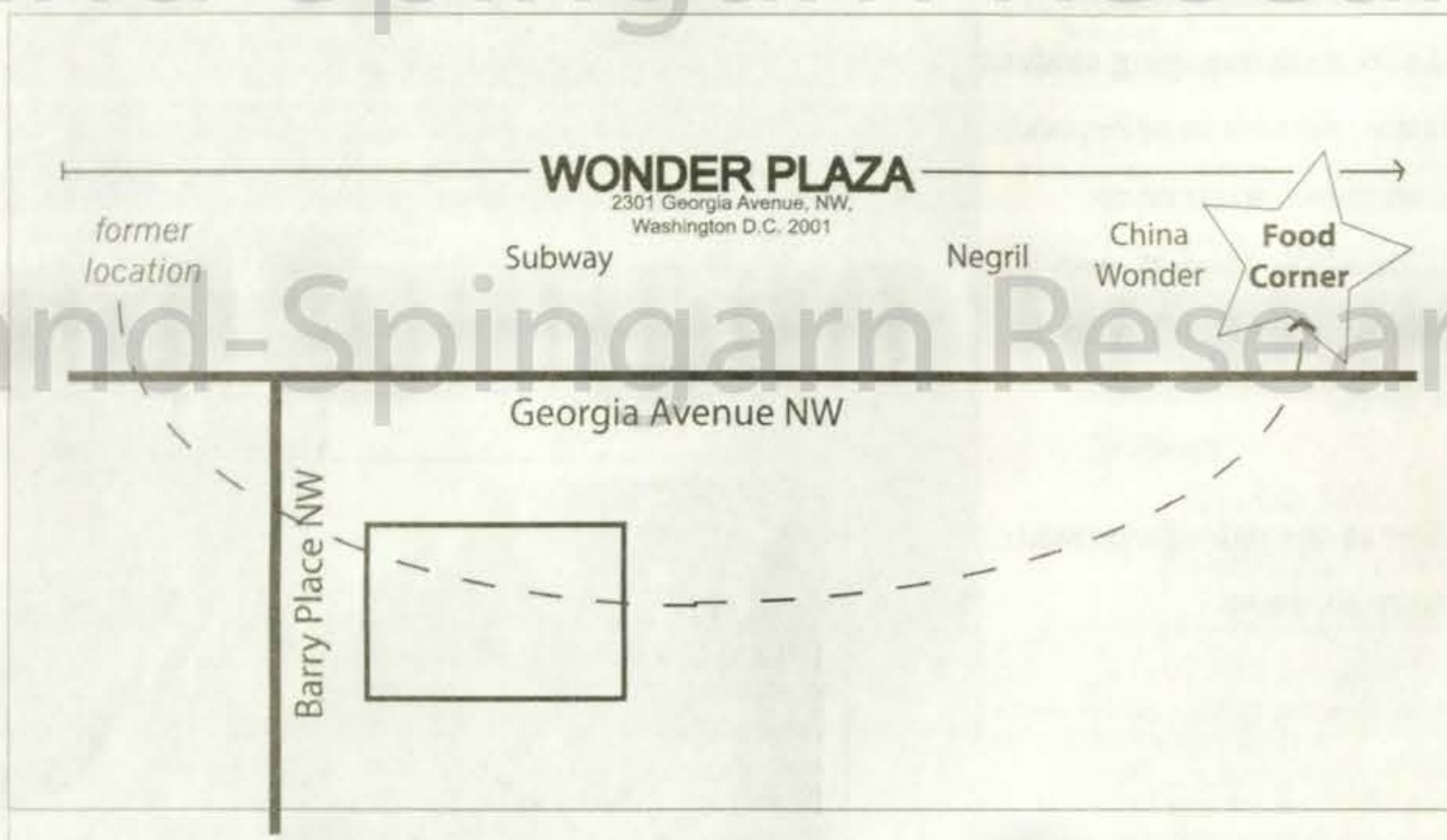
But will cheapening their menu tarnish Starbucks' image? That's what some people fear, as if there's a supposed class-separating line that divides consumers from McDonalds and Starbucks. They're believed to have a high-end image and will become like the rest of the fast food industry with these new values. I think some people have yet to understand that in a recession, though, anything goes.

In fact, Starbucks' new "pairings" may help them keep up a bit better with McDonalds.

This is a battle that I'm sure the public will be waiting for. Which fast food industry will survive the recession that's only going to get worse? We're at the birth of it, and we haven't even hit the terrible two's yet. Although I doubt any fast food industries are going to completely fold under pressure, it's interesting to see what actions Starbucks and McDonalds will take to stay ahead of the pack, as far as breakfast material, at least. More importantly though, how us average consumers will adapt to these changes.

I'm sure my vice will continue.

Linsey Isaacs is the Assistant Campus Editor and weekly columnist for this section. She can be reached at lisasaacs@gmail.com.



Food Corner used to be located at 2301-A Georgia Avenue, N.W. It has relocated to 2301-C Georgia Avenue, N.W., the old location of Five Guys.

Christina L. Burton • Business & Technology Editor



Financial Swagger

recession edition



Theodore Graves junior, advertising.
On spending: "I usually spend it on food."
On savings: "I'm not good at saving or budgeting."
Dealing With Recession: "It hasn't hit me yet, but I try to save at least \$20 out of each of my pay checks."



Erica Johnson freshman, poli. science.
Spending: "For the most part, I buy groceries."
Savings? "I take all the money that my parents send me and put it in a separate account from my regular spending money that I do not touch, unless in the case of an emergency."
On the Recession: "It is very hard for me because it's stopping my father from finding another job, so he can't send as much money to me as he would like to. Also, it is making everything more expensive and putting more interest rates on my student loans."



Ashley McFall soph., film production
On spending: "I spend my money very consciously. I'm cheap most of the time, but there are times when I get a little loose."
On saving, says, "I save my money in a bank account. My mother only puts a certain amount in it so I can't spend too much. Mom's the vault."
Dealing With Recession: "I'm not; I'm sure it's affected me, but I haven't paid much attention to it."

Compiled by Tiffany Briggs,
Contributing Writer

[You] + [Budget Meeting] X [10] =
A Better Hilltop

You should come to one.

Come get a story assignment at Sunday budget meetings at
6:00 p.m. in The Hilltop Office.

STILL
SEEKING
WRITERS

Community College to Finally Reach D.C.

BY CRYSTAL COOPER
Contributing Writer

When compared to other United States cities, the nation's capitol may find itself ill-equipped in terms of the amount of high school graduates attending institutions of higher education when compared to other U.S. cities. But, the University of D.C. (UDC) hopes to change this in August 2009.

This summer, UDC is opening a two-year community college, the first of its kind in the District.

"Less than 15 percent of D.C. Public School Graduates go on to college," UDC spokesperson Gustavo Paredes said. "UDC's goal is to fully accredit students to go onto whichever path they choose by providing opportunities for both economic and educational growth."

The Brookings Institution, a local non-profit public policy organization, released a report in July last year. It said the new community college would reduce D.C.'s high unemployment rate by also providing training for jobs that do not require a college degree.

At a meeting in January, the UDC Board of Trustees focused in part on providing workforce training to help remedy this problem.

According to Paredes, the D.C. Chamber of Commerce determined hospitality and real estate construction are currently the most important workforce development areas. The revamped Southwest Waterfront provides a high demand for these particular jobs.

Howard senior Jayna White is President of the HU DMV (D.C., Maryland & Virginia) Club. She attended Ballou High School in Southeast D.C. and graduated from Parkdale High School in Maryland.

"I know many people who graduated from D.C. and Maryland high schools that could not afford Howard's



Experts hope UDC Community College will increase the rate of D.C. high school graduates who attend college. To date, it is less than 15 percent. Photo Courtesy of www.washingtonpost.com

four-year tuition," White said. "As a matter of fact, I know at least five people who came to Howard and had to leave due to finances."

This problem extends beyond White's group of friends, affecting large numbers of current and former Howard students.

Deonte Mohamed is a former Howard student from Upper Marlboro Maryland who experienced the same problem White said she witnessed. About halfway through his freshman year, his family struggled to pay for his Howard tuition forcing him to consider transferring to a Maryland state school. He instead

decided to transfer to Prince George's Community College.

Mohamed was lucky. He resides in Maryland, where community colleges are located in most major counties including Prince George's, Montgomery and Anne Arundel. However, District students do not have this option. If they cannot afford tuition or need further academic assistance, their options are few.

Trivell Miller, a sophomore marketing major at UDC, said he probably would have opted for community college had it been available when he entered the school.

"I would have liked to transfer to

the University of Maryland," he said.

According to Linda Sanders-Hawkins, director of Admissions at Howard, she typically receives transfers from Northern Virginia and Prince George's Community Colleges and believes a D.C. community college would improve the chances for District students to transfer into Howard. Like other transfer students, UDC Community College students will generally need a minimum grade point average of 2.5 to enter Howard, which varies by field of study.

"Local students could get the opportunity to attend the 'gold mine' in their backyard," Sanders-Hawkins said.

College Workshop Offers Help to Virginia Students

Annual sessions prepare attendees for future

BY NIA CHALLENGER
Contributing Writer

A plethora of students and parents rotated through the front doors of Washington Lee High School, in Arlington, Va., on Saturday, eager to get a jump-start on their college careers.

Known as Super Saturday, the Virginia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (VASFAA), hosted free seminars in 20 other locations in Virginia, offering financial advice and assistance with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Gabrielle Kilby, a senior at Spencerville Adventist Academy in Ashten, Md., was apprehensive about attending college at first, but has become less nervous over the past year.

"This is my second year attending this workshop," Kilby said. "I came last year when I was a junior, for the first time and enjoyed the one on one attention that I was receiving. I wasn't really excited about the idea of going to college, but filling out these forms and getting expert advice really helps. I am excited about starting college next year."

Dawn Mohsin, a senior at Langston High School in Arlington, is waiting

on acceptance letters from her selected schools, and is enthusiastic about the financial support she has received so far.

"I heard about this program from my teacher and decided to come," Mohsin said. "I wasn't sure how I was going to pay for college, but things are starting to look up. The question and answer period really cleared up a lot of things that I wasn't too sure about."

Although the majority of attendees were high school students, the event was open to the general public. Some continuing college students took advantage of the free help that the VASFAA provided.

"I fill out the FAFSA every year and usually I don't get a lot of money, but it's better than nothing," one student said. "Other students agreed, and believe the advice given at the session will help them to make better financial decisions in the future."

Now in its eighth year, the Virginia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators has proven to be both beneficial and convenient to students and adults.

For more information, visit VASFAA.org.



Virginia high school students were able to receive academic and financial advice on Super Saturday. The seminar was free and allowed students to fill out their federal aid applications. Photo Courtesy of www.britannica.com

Divorce Rate Lowers as the Economy Worsens

BY TIMOTHY WARREN
The Washington Times

Financial problems often drive couples apart, but the nation's overwhelming economic crisis may be holding them together.

"People simply can't afford to get divorced. They can't afford the legal fees; they can't afford having two separate places to live," said Michele Weiner-Davis, a Colorado social worker and founder of divorcebusting.com, an online community for couples considering ending their marriages.

"There are a lot of couples who decide they have to stay together and have become motivated to do so," she said, adding that her own practice is still busy.

Spouses who are divorcing are finding that the often-nasty experience is now even more contentious.

"1/8 Spouses out of 3/8 want to receive a certain amount of support and the other will say they simply don't have enough money," said Michelle Thomas, a divorce lawyer who works in the District. "Divorce has become more contentious

because there is less to divide. Then they are separating and the pot has shrunk. It is hard for the other spouse to comprehend that."

Home values in the Washington area have declined 19.4 percent from a year ago, according to the S&P/Case-

ing in the District and at least two states -- Kansas and Connecticut -- over the past three years. Up-to-date figures were not available for Virginia and Maryland.

"Most people don't want to wait on the mortgage," said Carolyn Goodman, a divorce lawyer who works in the District,

"People simply can't afford to get divorced. They can't afford the legal fees; they can't afford having two separate places to live."

-Michele Weiner-Davis

Shiller Home Price Index, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average has fallen nearly 35 percent in the same period, taking a huge chunk out of couples' home equity and 401(k)s. Job losses make the situation even more difficult.

Divorce rates often fall in a bad economy. Statistics show divorces declin-

ing in the District and at least two states -- Kansas and Connecticut -- over the past three years. Up-to-date figures were not available for Virginia and Maryland.

However, some may benefit from divorce in difficult economic conditions.

Cindy Hartwell, a divorce lawyer in the wealthy Connecticut suburbs of New York, says this can be an opportune time to divorce for the family breadwinner.

"Most of my clients are in financial services," said Hartwell, who practices in hedge-fund territory in Fairfield County, Conn. "It's a good time if you want to get out on the cheap."

Plunging real estate prices mean that anyone who has to buy out his or her spouse likely will keep the family home for much less money than it would have cost two years ago.

Hard times have forced couples to adjust to new lifestyles, said Michael Radkowsky, a psychologist in the District who specializes in couples therapy.

"The pressure of financial crisis has made people realize they don't know how to cope well under pressure," Radkowsky said.

"Things have just gotten uglier between couples," Radkowsky said. "It's much more raw and more tense and people feel that much more is at stake. There is much less cooperation and good feeling."

Metro Briefs

Pharmacist Sentenced for Drug Trafficking

A pharmacist working for a Safeway in Silver Springs, Md. was arrested for selling fake OxyContin prescriptions. Vidhyanand Mahase pleaded guilty and received a six and a half year prison sentence for unlawfully handing out prescriptions for the painkillers. Between 2007 and 2008, Mahase was involved in almost 5,000 OxyContin pills getting into the hands of northern Virginia drug dealers. He was sentenced in an Alexandria, Va. federal court and is believed to have received tens of thousands of dollars for the drug operations.

PG Jail Inmates Attempt to Break Loose on Superbowl Sunday

While football fans gathered to watch the Super Bowl last week, prison inmates in a Prince George's County jail wanted to do the same. A group of about eight inmates broke the locks off their units and proceeded to attack the security guards on duty. Their action was fueled by the fact that they were barred from watching the Super Bowl game. The attacked guards quickly called for help and the situation was held under control.

Apple Store Faces Another Setback in Georgetown

Architect Karl Backus has been working with the Apple Company since 2007 to build an Apple store in the historic Washington D.C. neighborhood of Georgetown. Two years ago, Apple purchased a building on Wisconsin Avenue for over \$13 million dollars, hoping the Georgetown store would soon join its 251 others around the world. But in order for construction to begin, the store layout must first be accepted by the Old Georgetown Board, directed in part by the US commission of Fine Arts. Last Friday was the fourth time the board had rejected Backus' design.

The problem is the 35-foot-wide pane glass storefront, which Apple insists upon, claiming it represents their belief in transparency. But the Old Georgetown Board continues to reject, maintaining that it would conflict with the architecture common in the historic district, which still houses properties that are over a century old.

Three District Schools Targeted For Closure

District officials announced their plan to close three D.C. elementary schools, Birney, Draper and Webb, by the end of this school year. Birney and Draper, both of which are in Ward 8, along with Webb which is in Ward 3, will join the other 23 District schools that closed last year in order to preserve resources and improve the quality of academics.

Students from Birney will move into the newly remodeled Savoy elementary school building and Webb students will be transferred to Wheatley elementary school, both of which have been restored according to U.S. Green Building Council standards. Students from Draper will cycle into the nearby Ferebee Hope Elementary.

-Compiled by Leah Kimble,
Contributing Writer &
Geot Loksa, Staff Writer



TRUE LIFE: I'm a Believer

BY ALEESA MANN
Life & Style Editor

I believe in a thing called love; moreover, I believe in a thing called black love. On campus, it's hard to believe anything exists beyond awkward hook-ups or that "shh don't tell nobody we're dating" kind of thing, but I'm keeping hope alive.

Despite my lack of empirical data, the reason for my undaunted faith in happy, black relationships stems way back into the late '90s, when theaters were releasing a steady stream of films that celebrated real, uninhibited, intense black love.

There was... "Love Jones" (1997): Lots of candlelight, jazz and poetry, this movie is definitely the art-enthusiast's dream. Darin Lovehall (Larenz Tate) is a novelist who relentlessly pursues photographer Nina Mosely (Nia Long). Darin gave birth to the fantasy women have of that one guy who will write a poem about her and recite it to an audience in a smoke-filled room. Sure showing up at her house unannounced deserves a gold star on the stalker tip, but... sexy photo shoot? Yes, please.

And in just a few seconds, the film tackles the great 'sex debate': Is there more to relationships than physical intimacy? Nina answers this question as she tells Darin, "There are other things than sex." Then takes a pen and writes "love" on his hand.

"Love & Basketball" (2000): This film captures both ends of the spectrum; it's got all the emotional drama that appeals to girls which is intricately tied in with competitive sports for the guys. Ding, ding, we have a winner. The movie has a very storybook plot line. Once upon a time, two neighbors met and realized they not only do they like each other, they both loved basketball.

Sure the lines were kinda cliché (like the time Monica challenges Quincy to a game saying, "I'll play you... for your heart") and the characters aren't precisely articulate (Monica: "I've been in love with you since I was eleven, and the *** won't go away."), but the film is so endearing that all the contrived parts pale in comparison to the overwhelming feeling that you just want Quincy and Monica to just stop frontin' and get together!

"Brown Sugar" (2002): It's a lot like "Love & Basketball" in the sense that two life-long buddies share the same love, but this time it's music. Throughout the movie, you see ambitious record executive Dre (Taye Diggs) and equally ambitious journalist Sidney (Sunna Lathan) struggle with what they have. Is it friendship? Or love? Or hip-hop? Or love? Or friendship? ... and the movie continues.

None of these movies were particularly profound or thought provoking, but that's probably why, at 12, I loved them (and was secretly hoping the boy next door would turn out to be Mr. Right, although he turned out to be Mr. Weir-do).

So as black filmmakers continue to churn out black love stories on screen, I'll continue to believe. Although, I'm still waiting on that film about the Life & Style *The Hilltop* columnist who gets swept off her feet while standing in the burrito line in Blackburn. Ha, right.

Campaign Promotes Positive Views of Black Women



Studies conducted as a part of the "My Black is Beautiful" campaign show women feel first lady Michelle Obama will positively affect the views of black women in society.

BY JENERRA C. ALBERT
Staff Writer

"My Black is Beautiful" is a new campaign sponsored by Procter & Gamble (P&G) that has been inspired in part by first lady Michelle Obama and aims to celebrate the rich culture and strength of African-American women.

"The 'My Black is Beautiful' campaign started after some horrific find-

ing that 77 percent of African-American women are concerned with the way our image manifests itself in mainstream media outlets," said Kisha Mitchell, the campaign manager. "With that data in mind, we have a comprehensive marketing plan designed to ignite a national conversation concerning African-American beauty."

This survey revealed that 90 percent of the women surveyed feel that by having Michelle Obama as the first lady, the perception of black beauty will positively

change. Survey results also showed that 86 percent of women feel that Sasha and Malia will inspire young girls to feel positively about themselves.

"The images of African-American women in entertainment are often distorted by several different people before it's actually published," said Irene Harley, sophomore speech pathology major. "But you cannot distort what has already been proven. You can actually see Michelle Obama by her husband's side; that's something that is real. It cannot be altered."

Although Harley feels the Obamas will inspire black women and girls to em-

brace themselves and their culture, she admits its taken a long time for the black community to reach this point.

"The key sponsor for the campaign is Procter & Gamble, however, other brands such as Pantene, Olay, Always, Tampax and CoverGirl were eager to support such a positive statement.

In an effort to reach the population of HBCU students, Mitchell explained that the campaign has launched several marketing efforts to stimulate dialogue among college women. The campaign has held discussion forums at HBCUs, including participation in the color complex

"The 'My Black is Beautiful' campaign will hopefully inspire and rebuild those very traits that are often questioned."

-Kisha Mitchell, 'My Black is Beautiful' campaign manager

summit held at Howard.

"It's always a good thing to see that when these types of events and movements unfold, they do not forget to reach out to the community of college students, particularly HBCUs," said Le'Dia Smith, a sophomore marketing major.

Through the campaign, Mitchell hopes that black women will begin to love the skin they're in.

"The 'My Black is Beautiful' campaign will hopefully inspire and rebuild those very traits that are often questioned," Mitchell said. "There are very few times in your career when you receive the opportunity to combine your personal and professional passions - and this is one of those moments."

For Mitchell, the campaign is an opportunity for African-American women to talk with their daughters, mothers, friends, aunts and grandmothers about what it means to be beautiful.

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60 seconds with NE-YO

The *Hilltop* catches up with R&B artist Ne-Yo, as he gets ready to make moves in 2009.

What plans do you have for 2009?

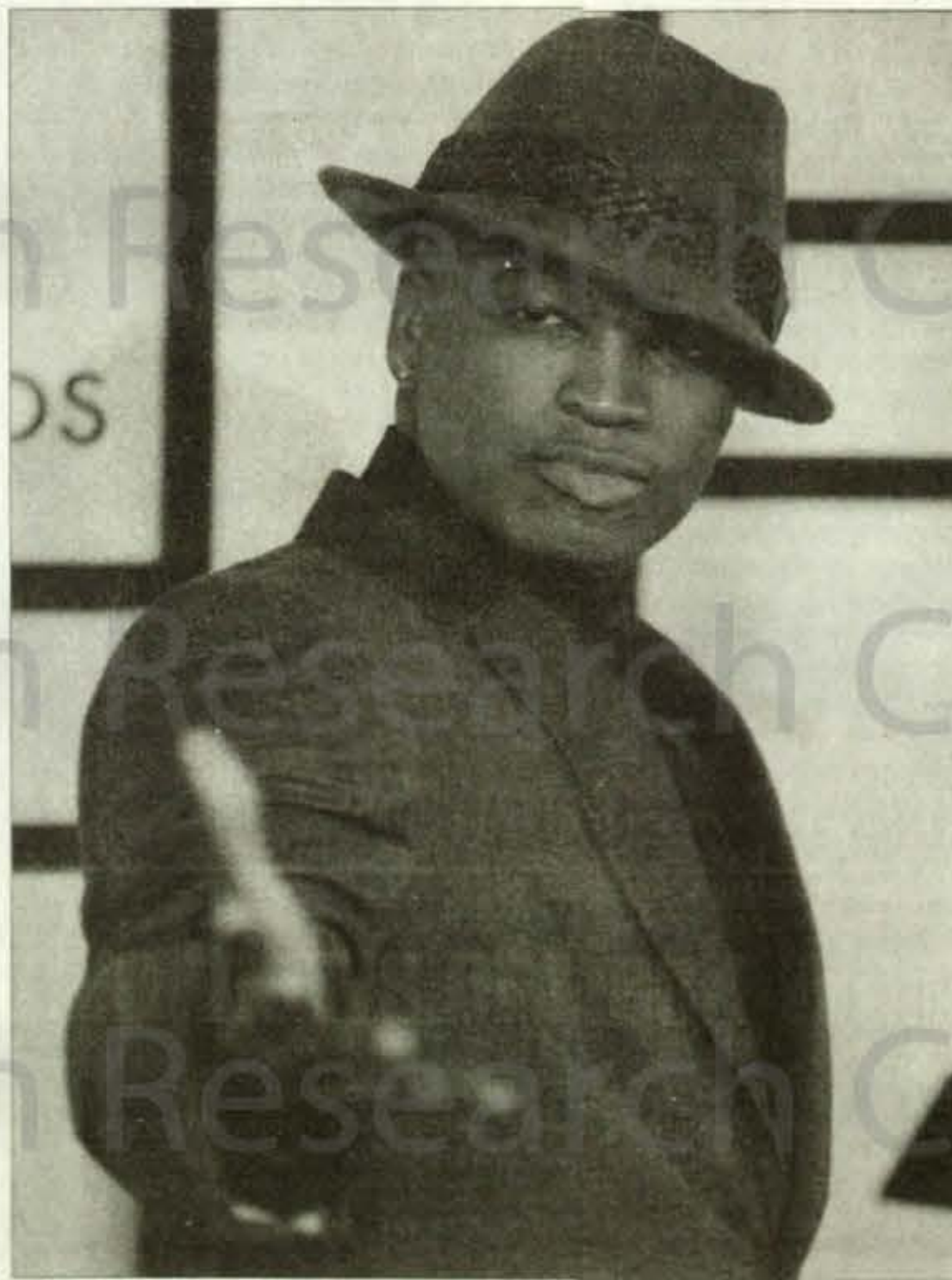
I'm still writing for a bunch of people; I got two movies coming out, got a cartoon I'm doing on Cartoon Network. I'm on tour right now with the Pussycat Dolls, and I'll be doing a tour with Musiq Soulchild and Jazmine Sullivan. That's coming real soon.

Did you make any New Years resolutions?

My new years resolution is to make '09 bigger and better than '08.

Will you be dropping an album any time soon?

I might hold off on another album; I might wait 'til next year to put another album out or maybe the end of this year. You know, give the world an opportunity to miss me a little bit, but yeah, be lookin' for me.



Lonel Hahn (MCT)

- Compiled by Aleesa Mann, Life & Style editor

R&B Star's Battery Charge Raises Concern Among Fans

Continued from *FRONT FIGHT*

In 2007, he admitted that as a child he witnessed his mother being abused.

While exposure to domestic violence can affect a child who may then be prone to commit his or her own acts of domestic violence, Cates says the cycle of violence can come to an end.

"I believe if you can learn to be abusive you can unlearn it as well, but it usually means you will have to get some assistance to be able to do that," she said.

Freshman finance major Lexus Henry does not condone domestic violence, but believes Brown's family history

and motivations may have played into his actions.

"I don't know what [Chris and Rihanna] are going to do after this but they both have to fix it," said Henry.

Chibuzo Ibeabuchi, junior pre-physical therapy major, feels the allegations will negatively impact Brown's career.

"People are not going to look so highly upon him," said Ibeabuchi. "He is supposed to be one of the prominent, younger, up-and-coming artists who is going to do really well in the future, but this is definitely a flaw in his character and it shows his fans another side of him that they weren't seeing."

Ibeabuchi also feels the negative

press and nature of Brown's actions will affect contracts and endorsements Brown has and would have in the future.

"All of that stuff can be taken away because of this one thing that he did so I wouldn't be surprised if that was something that happened to him," said Ibeabuchi.

Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company, a gum mint and candy manufacturer, suspends its campaign featuring Brown and his single "Forever Monday."

For some students like sophomore film major James Morgan, Brown's fan may align on his side, at least while the case is shrouded in speculation.

"Chris Brown's alleged assault will

bring his fan base together in terms of supporting him until all the facts come out because everything is subjective; everything is gossip you don't really know what the case is," Morgan said.

Morgan feels that ultimately, Brown will have to endure the consequences of his actions.

"Assault is wrong, especially on a female," said Morgan. "It's unforgivable and if he did that then he should serve the time for it."

Brown has hired attorney Mark Geragos, who defended Michael Jackson for part of his molestation case, and is scheduled for arraignment on March 5.



Charles Metz III - Cartoonist

Congress Takes Too Long to Pass Economic Stimulus Package

Sunday marked an unusual work day at the Capitol, with Congressional aides working to sort through discrepancies that the House and Senate have over the economic stimulus package.

Whether or not the House or Senate bill is approved by President Obama one thing is clear: The money should go to the people.

The government has already bailed out the big businesses, now it is time to assist those who are really suffering from the effects of a recession. Money should go to homeowners and small businesses.

Leaders from the House and the Senate plan to present versions of the bill to President Obama next Monday. The Senate is expected to present a \$827 billion plan, while the House is expected to present a slightly cheaper bill which will cost almost \$819 billion.

On Friday, the Senate voted to scale down their version of the bill, which would give the Democrats the majority vote needed to proceed. Three

Republicans vowed to back the legislation.

However, various Congressional leaders feel that more Republican votes are needed. Price negotiations will take place after the Senate votes again.

To the American people, it seems as if the only thing taking place is debating and re-voting.

Our View:

Economic stimulus money should go to homeowners and small businesses.

It is obvious where the money should go and while bicameral "negotiations" are being made, small businesses are failing, jobs are being sent overseas, and homes are being lost.

The interest of the government should be replaced with the interest of the general public, and it appears as if the House and the Senate do not truly know where that interest lies.

One of the greatest discrepancies among the two versions of the bill is the House wants to provide \$40 billion more for aid to local governments and middle class tax relief. But, the Senate wants to render more aid for tax incentives for home and car purchases.

Republicans disagree with both versions because they think they will cause excessive spending and do not deal with the source of the economic crisis.

Unless you are an economist who understands the debate on Capitol Hill or a politician who can not decide on how to allocate the money, then this debate probably does not make sense.

But at the end of the day, those Americans who don't quite understand the ins and outs of this piece of legislation are the ones that are suffering the most.

Both the House and the Senate need to speed up this process so that a decision can be made and people can be helped.

Perspective

The Easy Fix

When I was in the ninth grade, I never did my hair. I didn't even bother to comb it. It's not even like I wasn't trying. I just didn't know how to do it. So I gave up and developed the attitude that there was nothing wrong with my hair. I even thought my hair's nappiness was cute. I was cute.

Then one day, I went to school and this girl, who used to be my friend turned foe, decided to post a huge picture of my hair on my locker. As if that was not bad enough, other people had co-signed the picture to show that they too did not like my hair. I was pissed, to say the least, because my delusion that I was too, too cute was shattered.

I went around school telling everybody that I ran into about how much of a hater this girl was for pointing out something so obvious to everybody else. To get even, I wrote a note detailing the many ways in which this girl and every-

body else that had agreed with her were haters. I blew it up, laminated it, and I posted it on her locker.

I really let her have it. I told her how it was not my fault; they were hating on greatness, and they shouldn't talk about my hair. I even blamed my sisters for not doing my hair every morning like I had asked them. It wasn't my fault; it was theirs for not doing everything that I demanded of them when I demanded it be done. I let all my dirty laundry air for the public to see. I didn't even consider the fact that by posting this, I was disheartening my sisters, who were trying to do the best that they could.

I could have brought a comb or asked somebody for help, but I did not. People told me that I was wrong for posting the note because my hair was not cute. I even received a note on my locker telling me that people will help me if I just asked. Despite their pleas, I kept on thinking that I was cute

and posted another letter. Again, I told them they were haters for offering to help.

I tried to make people feel stupid by interrupting conversations in which they were talking about me. I even went around just finding people that would agree that my hair was cute. Then, I posted those answers on the girl's locker once again.

After that, I found myself losing support and friends. So, I finally asked my mom to help me out. She did, and eventually, everybody agreed that my hair was indeed cute. Slowly, I regained friends. They saw that instead of obsessing about a flaw that could easily be fixed, I was doing something to help myself.

My point is that it is important that we never become too proud to change for the better.

- Jessica Lewis,
Campus Staff Writer

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

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Come to our next budget meeting!

Sunday @ 6 p.m. in the West Towers

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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 Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

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

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

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

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

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Tuesday February 10, 2009
Trading Places: Battle of the Sexes Quad Truth Hall Lounge 7:14 PM
Wednesday February 11, 2009
Dating Game Quad Truth Hall Lounge 7:14 PM
Thursday February 12, 2009
Relationship Forum Founder's Browsing Room 7:14 PM
Friday February 13, 2009
Poetry Night Coco Libre on Sherman Ave. 8 PM

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>.