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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO. 91

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Established
1924

Friday, February 13, 2009

Friday's Notebook

CAMPUS
SOME HOWARD UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING STUDENTS ARE WORKING ON SOMETHING VERY ECO-FRIENDLY.

NATION & WORLD
LEARN ABOUT BEN S. BERNANKE AND WHY NEWSWEEK HAS NAMED HIM THE "FOURTH MOST POWERFUL PERSON."

SPORTS
THE NBA ALL-STAR WEEKEND IS AMONG US. READ ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE ALL-STARS AND THE EVENTS.

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♥ LOVE IS IN THE AIR ♥

Obama Family Expresses Black Love

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON
Staff Writer

The induction of the first black president left a large amount of blacks in America in awe at what seemed to be impossible, but aside from historical context, many view the love of President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama as a healthy, positive representation of love and marriage.

"It makes me proud; I know there are a lot of people who feel they aren't representing the black community because of their lack of issues, but they are exactly what black America should aim for," said Amanda Badze, a freshman nursing major.

In the 2008 U.S. Census Bureau, it was determined that 54 percent of black children grew up in a single-parent household, while 51 percent of all marriages ended in divorce.

As "Cosby-like" as the family appears, will this beautiful portrayal of the black American family reduce these numbers of divorce and wedlock. The media portrayal of black love between black families will have a positive contribution to the rise of black families and marriages.

"There have been strong cases of black love and black family way before Obama, and I'm not just talking about the Cosbys," said Chaniqua Nelson, a sophomore political science major. "I definitely believe that some African American's will look at their families and want to base their families on what they see in the Obama's."

Nelson feels that although there is an amazing and ideal love between the Obama's, it is important to remember their image is largely dictated by the media.

"Not only do they show that they have a genuine connection to each other, but they have achieved a high level of status that is also attractive."

—Chaniqua Nelson, sophomore



President and first lady Obama epitomize black love to some in the community.

"We don't know how it is in the White House, but I think there will be an effect because of the fact they are real," said Nelson. "Not only do they show that they have a genuine connection to each other, but they have achieved a high level of status that is also attractive."

Sylvia Rosario, a licensed marriage and family therapist of the African-American Center for Marriage and Family Counseling, said that as the Obama's represent America, their love and affection will begin to trigger couples coming together and being more committed.

"They are excellent role models," said Rosario. "They not only represent love and marriage, but a commitment to family and their children and what's good for them, and that is an impact that the larger American community needs to see."

Rosario also said that students have to understand that black people are represented at the very bottom and also at the very top. The Obama's represent those of us who are at the top.

Yet, Rosario feels black Americans have been portrayed poorly and hopes the Obama family will allow those who live in other countries to see that African Americans aren't all "poor families [or] gun-wielding gangsters without aspirations."

"It may show that marriage is something, and it can be for black families too," said Rosario.

Morrison Honored at Heart's Day

BY CAMILLE AUGUSTIN
Editorial Assistant

As today marks the 15th annual Heart's Day conference at Howard University, the festivities to honor Pulitzer Prize winning author and Howard alumna, Toni Morrison, have already begun.

The conference is an annual occasion of commemoration and tribute.

The program is entitled, "A Daughter's Return: The Fiction of Toni Morrison." Some of Morrison's most notable works include "Beloved," "Song of Solomon" and "The Bluest Eye." Beginning at 12:30 p.m., there will be a performance of "The Bluest Eye" in the Ira Aldridge Theater.

Students are excited about Morrison's appearance on campus.

"To me, Heart's Day is a chance to learn more about a prolific writer," said Desiree Luckey, a freshman psychology major. "It is really exciting to know that someone from Howard is doing such amazing things in the literary world. I see it as a great opportunity to

acknowledge the ongoing contributions of a member of the Howard community and an inspiration for all students to be the best in their field of study."

The festivities are being conducted by the English department and consists of a series of panels that will analyze Morrison's work. The chair of the English department, Eleanor Traylor, will also be giving a speech at one of the panels. To end off the festivities, a gala will be held in Blackburn Ballroom, where Toni Morrison will read from her new novel.

In 2005, Maya Angelou was honored on Heart's Day.

"I think it's great that we have a distinguished alumna who has written many profound novels, and also that she is coming back to her

alma mater to enlighten future generations of Howard students with her knowledge" said Elizabeth Walker, a freshman business management major.

Next year's honoree for Heart's Day will be Zora Neale Hurston.



Author Toni Morrison will be honored at this year's Heart's Day conference.

Bookstore Begins Sales of Caps, Gowns

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

In the last semester of the senior year, a new graduation fee has recently been announced.

"Caps, gowns, hoods and tassels for Commencement 2009 will be available for purchase at the Howard University Bookstore."

The word went out in a university e-mail sent by the Howard University Office of Communication, on Feb. 3, informing students that all graduation regalia will be on sale at the new HU Graduation Center, which "will open on or after March 1."

The Web site, detailing the price for all commencement attire, will be available on the Howard University Bookstore Web site "in the near future."

Depending on the selection of regalia, "caps, gowns, hoods and tassels for Commencement 2009 will be available for purchase at the Howard University Bookstore (HUB) within the \$45.00-\$90.00 price range," according to the Board of Trustees secretary Artis Hampshire-Cowan.

The price of attire does not eliminate the \$100 graduation fee, which in previous years covered the cap and gown requirement.

The change, however, has not

been publicly announced outside of the e-mail, to which many students do not have access. Upcoming seniors will pay the price of the change.

Madison Shaw, a senior physical therapy major, said that she was unaware of the new charge and was surprised the change was even taking place.

"I do not agree," Shaw said.

She admits to not having a choice as to whether or not to pay the fee since it is mandatory putting her in a helpless position.

Shaw said she could always borrow someone's who graduated last year.

"For several decades, the graduation fee at Howard University has remained static at \$100. In spite of progressive cost increases and the expansion of graduation-related items and services over the years, there have been no increases in the graduation fee for 35 years. In effect, the university has been subsidizing the graduation fee at a loss of approximately \$23.05 per graduate per year, totaling approximately \$46,100 on an annual basis," Hampshire-Cowan said. "In an effort to maintain the current ceiling on graduation fees, there is no increase planned for this purpose in 2009." The 35-year time span that Hampshire-Cowan alludes to is the year of 1973, when the Office of the Secretary assumed the duties of distributing

commencement attire once HUB could no longer due to operational issues, according to Hampshire-Cowan.

Now, for the past three years, HUB has been in negotiations to once again be the site for commencement distribution.

"The Howard University Bookstore plans to expand merchandising and add to the broad range of selections and services currently offered to prospective graduates to better serve the needs of the customers," Hampshire-Cowan said.

One of the expansions planned is the use of online ordering to mitigate the process of ordering regalia. In addition, a Graduation Ordering Fair is under works.

"I think it is an excellent move pushing Howard to fiscal responsibility," said Melech Thomas, a junior speech and applied communication major.

He said that the end result of students buying their own commencement attire is students making an investment to purchase their own future.

However, he would like to see if the student activity fee will be raised next year. If so, he asked will that cover the new commencement fee.

Overall, he said, "I don't object to it."



The National Zoo held an event on Thursday for adults only showing the love that animals also show each other.

'Woo in the Zoo' Special Valentine's Event Gives Couples a Lesson on Love in the Animal Kingdom

BY ALEXA MURRAY
Contributing Writer

For many couples, there is the great question lingering of what to do for this Valentine's Day. Thursday, the National Zoo held "Woo in the Zoo," an adult-only event discussing love in the animal kingdom.

"Woo in the Zoo" was a free event from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., open to lovers and the loveless. During the evening, couples explored the dating and mating behaviors of animals, while enjoying each other's company.

While exploring the love between animals, the event catered to the wants of those couples celebrating their Valentine's

Day. During their visit, visitors were given a chance to create a valentine for that special someone in their lives and were supplied with a free Valentine's Day treat along with a long-stemmed rose.

This affair gave couples a chance to understand that Valentine's Day does not only belong solely to the human race.

For the Valentine's Day weekend, there are many other options available for couples and also those spending the day alone. Tonight, Bobby Valentino will perform at Love Nightclub for a Pre-Valentine's Day affair. On Feb. 14, Trey Songz will perform at 9 p.m. at Love Nightclub.

If you would like to try something new and different, try the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indi-

an which will host "The Power of Chocolate" on Feb. 14 from 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

If all else fails, remember that one can always stick to the basics. There is nothing more special and delightful than a romantic outing with one's girlfriend or boyfriend. A night out at a restaurant will be enough, if the atmosphere is right on the inside. Couples can also enjoy a quiet night together at the movies or just a simple night together.

With the recession hitting the pockets of most students, just keep in mind there are many inexpensive options available. It is not about how much money one spends on a loved one, be creative and put your heart into it.

Engineer Students to Develop Hybrid Vehicle

BY SIMONE JOSEPH
Contributing Writer

With increasing efforts to produce energy efficient vehicles, Howard engineering students are well on their way to designing an eco-friendly car as part of a national competition.

Students are currently working on a 2009 GM Saturn VUE with cutting-edge technologies and improved aerodynamics that may rank its model ahead of what already exists.

Out of hundreds of applicants, Howard's EcoCar Team, 16 other engineering institutions throughout the nation and Canada were chosen in Spring 2008 for the national EcoCar Challenge, a three-year collegiate vehicle engineering competition.

After months of planning and strategizing, nearly 200 participants gathered throughout the metro Detroit area during the Inauguration weekend to finalize their vehicle architecture selections for the competition. Howard's ultimate architecture is a biodiesel plug-in Hybrid Electric vehicle, a B20 FWD Powerplant PHEV to be more specific.

Dr. Grant Warner and Dr. James Hammonds are assistant professors in the department of Mechanical Engineering and faculty advisors for the team, comprised of engineering, communications, business and fine arts students. They are facilitating the development of a module, which allows the car to run on the electric motor at very low speed and to switch to the en-

gine on high speed.

"The real objective of these technologies developed is to use fuel that burn engines resourcefully by using it less at most efficient times," Hammonds said.

Another aspect of the B20 FWD Powerplant PHEV is a process called regenerative braking, in which any fuel remaining when breaking will be reused to charge the battery of the electric motor. As for the engine, they will be experimenting with refined cooking oil as a biodiesel obtained from the cafeteria, Warner said.

Group leaders, like juniors Todd Hughes and Saitu Braithwaite, both engineering majors, had the opportunity to share their platform with the public during the Washington Auto Car Show last Wednesday, Feb. 4.

"Our team mingled with share holders, diplomats like Colin Powell and car fanatics," Hammonds said.

At the show, students learned that another major sponsor, Natural Resources Canada, increased their funding by supporting graduate students with stipends. The U.S. Department of Energy and General Motors Corporation are the headline sponsors of the Eco Car, The Next Challenge.

The main objective of the competition is to explore solutions to achieve improved fuel economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while retaining the performance and consumer appeal of a 2009 Saturn Vue vehicle.

"At Saturn, our commitment to



Some of Howard University's engineering students are currently working on an eco-friendly car such as the one above.

change is evident in our current and future lineups of hybrids and other fuel-efficient vehicles," said Jill Lajdzia, Saturn general manager.

Some of the eco-friendly models that are already out include the Honda FCX Clarity, a hydrogen fuel cell sedan; MINIE, a zero emission vehicle; and Mitsubishi i-MiEV, a battery electric city car. At the Washington Car Show, the auto magazine *Green Car Journal* named the range-extended electric Chevrolet Volt the winner of the 2009 Green Car Vision Award.

The Congressional Research Service, whose expertise assists in the development of the legislature, reported that the widespread adoption of plug-in hybrid vehicles through 2030 may have only a small effect on, and might actually increase, net CO2 emissions. This may counteract President Obama's pledge "to put 1 million of the vehicles on the road by 2015" since most of the United States' electricity production is not carbon-free.



What are your plans for Valentine's Day?



"I am going to the gym with my friend and her mother, then I am going to the mall and a party. So really, everything is non-valentines related."

-Candice Jenkins, junior, biology



"I am going to North Carolina to see my boyfriend. I don't know what I am going to do yet, but I think he has a surprise for me."

-Madison Shaw, senior, physical therapy



"I am going to surprise a girl with flowers and chocolate and take her to the movies."

-Aaron Randle, sophomore, print journalism



"I am going to buy myself chocolate and my boyfriend is buying me flowers."

-Rashida Moore, freshman, undecided

-Compiled by Camille Augustin, Editorial Assistant

African-American Studies Professor Favorite Among Many Students

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

While we look to the man in the White House as a symbol of hope and a better tomorrow, overlooking the people who promise us a brighter today is all too easy.

"A lot of times, you hear that he is an amazing professor and that you are selling yourself short if you do not take his class," said Francis Roberts, a senior international business major.

Javetta Clemmons, a sophomore chemical engineering major, said that every person one can ask will say he is one of the best professors at Howard.

For nine years, African-American Studies professor Dr. Gregory Carr has imparted his love of black onto his many students.

Clemmons said that she learned to take pride in the black community and in herself through Carr's class.

"It taught me that my history did not start here. My history is so deep and so much of it has not even been discovered yet," Clemmons said.

Roberts said that he learned to challenge the values and ideas that many call normal.

"You learn to consider things from a different viewpoint. You do not really realize how you feel about a situation, until you are in that open environment to discuss it," he said.

With such personal testimonies stemming from their experiences in Carr's class, it may seem odd to learn that Roberts's class, taken in fall 2006, had 70 students. Clemmons, who took the class spring 2008, was one of approximately 150 students.

According to Bison Web, just one of Carr's Introduction to African-American Studies courses had 55 students in fall 2005, and that number has fluctuated over the course of three years.

Currently, that same class has 308 enrolled

students. Annually, Dr. Carr teaches two other classes with similar enrollment figures.

Dr. Carr explained that he stops signing overrides when the room reaches capacity. Since Carr's classes are generally held in auditorium classrooms that can seat approximately 350 students, he can continue to sign overrides.

"I allow the high numbers, because I believe in accommodating student's interest in African Studies," Carr said.

He does not believe that the high number of students in his classes impedes their learning environment because "classroom management is not that difficult."

In addition, Carr does not believe it is his teaching that draws the students to his class, although he is the only member of the Afro-American Studies department to obtain a Ph.D. in Afro-American Studies.

"It's not me," he said. "What the interest is, is understanding us."

At every university in which Carr has taught, he has seen a large African-American population gravitate toward his courses.

At Ohio State University, Carr said that his classes were approximately 98 percent black, in a school whose black population was about 5 percent of 50,000. At Temple University, his classes were 95 percent black.

At Howard University, a predominantly black institution, the gravitational pull has only been amplified. When he first started at Howard, Carr reports that his class size was only once approximately 40 students.

"It's about trying to expose as many students at Howard to the methods and techniques of African Studies," he said.

The techniques teach students why historical figures made their decisions and what impact they were trying to have on the people.



Dr. Carr, professor of African-American Studies is one of the most popular professors at Howard.

A Look at Dr. Carr's Class Numbers Over the Years

Semester:	Students:
Fall 2005	55
Spring 2006	120
Fall 2006	70
Spring 2007	144
Fall 2007	121
Spring 2008	237
Fall 2008	164

Students Decide to Take Alternative Roads to Success After Graduation

BY NIA CHALLENGER
Contributing Writer

With the end of the academic year slowly approaching, hundreds of Howard graduates will be preparing to commemorate the completion of their collegiate careers. However, celebrations may come to an abrupt stop once commencement is over and reality sets in.

Sandra Gaines, an academic advisor for the School of Communications, feels that there is no immediate explanation as to why some students do not rush into the traditional responsibilities of the workforce.

"There are internal and external factors that may affect student's decisions," Gaines said. "Internal factors can include finances and personal choices, which have a lot to do with it. External factors include academic leniency or not following the proper scheme of courses."

According to a study done by

Business Week in 2006, 80 percent of School of Business graduates were already employed upon graduation. Another 10 percent were planning to continue their education immediately after graduation, while 5 percent were postponing their job search, and the remaining were planning to start their own business.

Devon Miller, a senior public relations major, has not received any job offers as of yet, but is confident and optimistic about his options.

"I currently have a small business called How Hood University Records, in which I am the CEO and producer," Miller said. "That will be my main focus after graduation. However, I will be maintaining my contacts and doing a lot of networking."

Differing from Miller, 2007 graduate Nicole Leroy was not quite ready to deal with the hassle and pressures of figuring out her long-term career goals and opted instead to commit to Teach for America, an

organization that brings education to low-income neighborhoods worldwide. A popular substitute for recent college graduates, Teach for America grants experience to students, while putting money in their pockets.

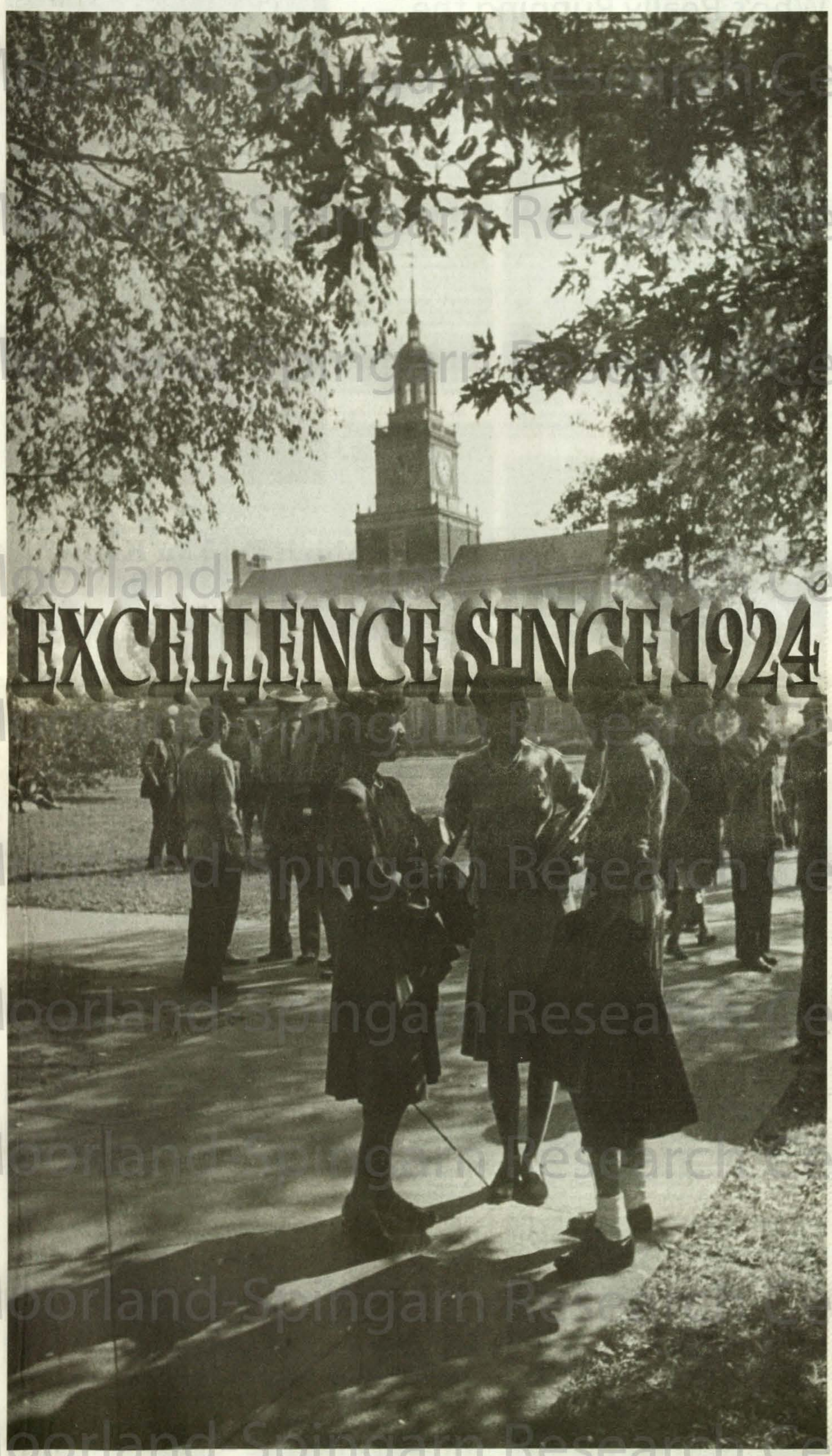
"I had two job offers, but I wasn't excited about any of them," Leroy said. "Through volunteering and by word-of-mouth, I heard about Teach for America and thought that joining the program would be a great way for me to slowly transition from the college world to the real world."

While some students immediately jump into the workforce after graduation, it is completely typical for others to want to take some time off to focus on what it is they really want to do such as volunteering, traveling, interning or spending time doing things that will eventually benefit the career paths and impress future employers. However, postponing the workforce may hinder the chances of obtaining a relevant job.

No School Monday!

Enjoy Your Three-Day Weekend.

But, don't forget to stop by the office on Sunday at 6 p.m. to grab a story!



THE HILLTOP

Who's Really Running the Country? *Ben S. Bernanke*

BY AURORA ELLIS
Contributing Writer

Despite its status as an entity with power and influence, the Federal Reserve and its members remain much of a mystery to the American public.

Yet, Ben S. Bernanke is one figure who stands out among the powerful board members. Bernanke, the chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, was appointed by former president Bush and sworn into office on Feb. 1, 2006 and presides over one of the most critical institutions in the country.

As chair of the Federal Reserve, Bernanke is the head of one of the most influential systems in America that determines the nation's monetary policy and regulates the nation's banking institutions.

"They have a lot of power and it's astounding," said William Spriggs, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics, about the Federal Reserve and its board members. The Federal Reserve, or "The Fed," was a direct response to a dire banking crisis which occurred around the turn of the century.

According to Spriggs, the Federal Reserve is "a quasi-government organization" whose "role is to maintain safety and set the standards of the national banks." In other words, it's the "banker's bank."

The responsibility of the Federal Reserve is to regulate banks and, according to Spriggs, it does this through setting the money supply, interest rates and

reserve ratios by which the banks will abide.

However, it is not just the ability to determine these standards that make Chairman Bernanke and his board "exceedingly powerful," Spriggs said.

"The chair and Board are appointed by the president with set term limits," which he said can outlast the presidency and, therefore, both the chair and Board "function virtually independent of Congress and the president, so they are like the Supreme Court of the economy."

Ben Bernanke's position as chairman has a great amount of influence over what policies the Federal Reserve will adopt, so it is no surprise that *Newsweek* recently ranked Bernanke the fourth "most powerful person" when he oversees the organization that, as Spriggs contends, "determines the shape of our economy and can make it slow or grow."

The decisions of the Federal Reserve chairman and Board can significantly affect the state of the economy. Consequently, the current weak economy can affect college students in a number of ways.

"From a student's perspective, we can see a rise in tuition," said TyEsha Ervin, a junior broadcast journalism major. "It is also a lot harder for us to find jobs."

Recently, the university has been in discussion about whether or not tuition will raise for students in the coming years. Students are concerned about what these tuition increases will mean for them and how they will be able to receive

more funds for school to complement the increase.

According to economics professor C. Kendrick Hunt, "the man whose actions can influence interest rates, effect consumption and savings and get right into your pocket" is certainly powerful and will have effects on whether students will be able to gain funding for loans, scholarships and grants.

In one of his latest public speeches, Bernanke defends the work of the Federal Reserve in its response to the economic crisis and stresses the importance of the Obama administration and Congress in creating a fiscal package that he believes could promote economic activity.

However, it will be Bernanke's performance and decisions as chair throughout the next year under the current Obama administration that will determine whether or not he is reappointed after his four-year term ends in Jan. 31, 2010.

It is essential now more than ever to be aware of who holds the positions of, not only political influence, but also economic power in the worldwide financial crisis.

In order for Americans to achieve economic and political progress, it's necessary to recognize the less-known individuals who have a significant amount of power yet stay relatively anonymous behind the more well-known and familiar faces in leadership.



Ben S. Bernanke is the chairman for the Federal Reserve, commonly known as "The Fed." Chuck Kennedy (MCT)

Black History Trivia: How Much Do You Know?

1. What was the first black newspaper?
2. Who videotaped Rodney King's beating by Los Angeles police?
3. Who was the first black woman senator?
4. What did Ralph Bunche win the Nobel Peace Prize for?
5. When was the importation of slaves outlawed in the U.S.?
6. What Civil War soldier was the first black to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor?
7. Who was the first black astronaut to walk in space?
8. What was the name of the first slave ship built in the English colonies?
9. What dispute led to the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church?
10. What were the names of the three civil rights workers murdered by the Ku Klux Klan in 1954?

Answers: 1. Freedom's Journal, 2. George Holliday, 3. Carol Moseley Braun, 4. Mediating an end to an Arab Israeli conflict, 5. 1808, 6. Sgt. William H. Carney, 54th Massachusetts Infantry, 7. Bernard Harris, Jr., 8. The Desire, 9. The segregation of St. George's Methodist Church, 10. James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner.

Info courtesy of urbanradiosales.com
- Compiled by Jada F. Smith, Nation & World Editor

KWAME SPEAKS: Where Are WE Now?

One might ask, where do we stand as people in the modern world? Are we even a competing race of people? Well contrary to popular belief, we are not. We're currently at the bottom and we're still battling an overarching structural concept of racial inequality and social injustice.

But, conversely we have been bamboozled by propaganda which uses this so-called modern culture (popular culture) and the media as a vehicle to distort our perception of reality.

And as a result of this distortion of reality, we have come to believe that we are somehow equal; and things that were once considered racist are now seen as something obsolete and outdated when in reality it has taken an insidious disposition that we're somehow missing.

What we are suffering from is a stealthy racism that is hidden in plain sight via facets like the U.S. Constitution and things of the like. We have somehow been persuaded to believe that slavery was abolished, that we're better off now than we were in the '60s and prior, that if you (as a person of African decent) work hard in the system you can rise above it, etc.

The U.S. Constitution contains laws that claim that people of African decent are three-fifths of a human and the Constitution was never re-written, so it is still present

in the text to this very day!

That law was amended, but we've been coaxed to believe that the amendments to the Constitution substantially altered the meaning when in reality, it has done nothing but make the Constitution an insidious book of racist and sexist laws.

For example, the 13th amendment, sections one and two, states: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime where of the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

So based on the language presented above, slavery wasn't abolished, it was just disguised and presented as something different. So there has never been an axiom that truly abolished slavery! Do we really believe that we're better off than our forefathers and mothers of the civil rights movement and before?

We can't possibly come to that conclusion because there are no real harbingers of this day who, under their own volition choose to be intransigent and fight this system of oppression that has become a well-oiled machine and continues to plague our community. And of course we know that working hard in the system may provide

sustenance for a few of us, but as a collective whole we'll never see the majority of us "make-it" in this imbecilic society.

To conclude, we must redefine ourselves with an African agenda on African terms. We must break away from the paradigm that has been set by members who are alien to our community and a mass media complex that is built on propaganda to skew and distort the views of the masses.

Marcus Garvey says of propaganda: "Propaganda has done more to defeat the good intentions of races and nations than even open warfare. Propaganda is a method or medium used by organized peoples to convert others against their will. We of the Negro race are suffering more than any other race in the world from propaganda - propaganda to destroy our hopes, our ambitions and our confidence in self."

So I encourage all to look up: Zionist Jews, Cecil Rhodes (who the Rhodes scholarship is named after), The Trilateral Commission, The Bilderberg Group, The Rockefeller Family, The Rothschild Family, The Oppenheimer family, J. P. Morgan, Andrew Carnegie and all other whites and their families who control most of the wealth in the country and globally.

-Michael Leak, Kwame Toure Society



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

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

NBA All-Star Weekend Begins Tonight in Phoenix

This weekend, the NBA All-Star Weekend festivities are in full swing in Phoenix, Ariz. There will be eight events on Friday and Saturday. The actual All-Star game will take place on Sunday. Tip-off is at 8 p.m. on TNT.

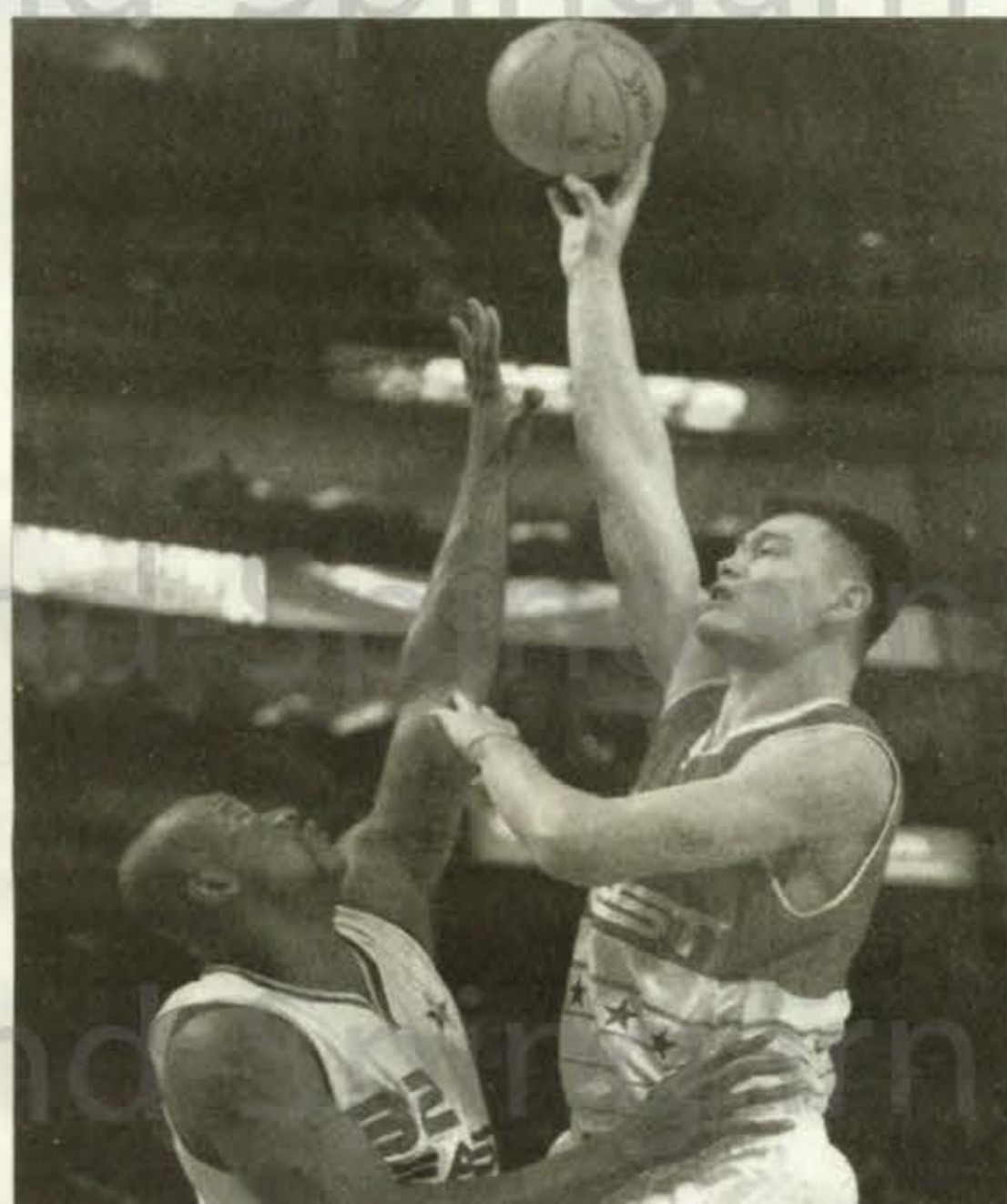
The weekend will feature a new event, H-O-R-S-E. The famous backyard basketball game will be played by NBA stars Joe Johnson, Kevin Durant and O.J. Mayo.

The game will feature many of the usual suspects such as Shaquille O'Neal, Allen Iverson, Kobe Bryant and LeBron James. There are three first time All-Stars, Jameer Nelson of the Orlando Magic, Danny Granger of the Indiana Pacers and Devin Harris of the New Jersey Nets.

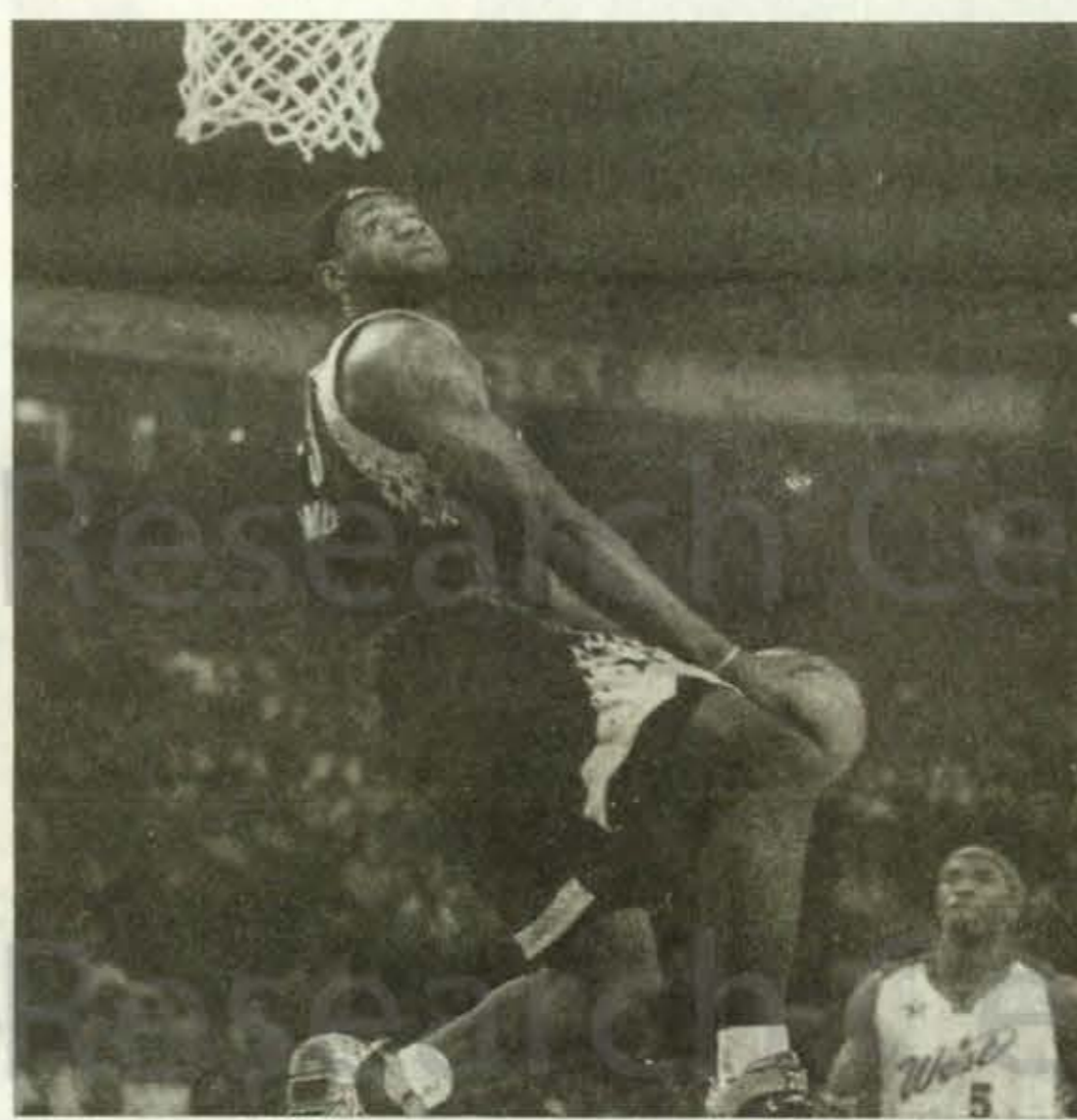
- Compiled by Donlay Morris, Sports Editor



Danny Granger (left) will be participating in his first All-Star game. Dwyane Wade (right) will be playing in his fifth All-Star game.



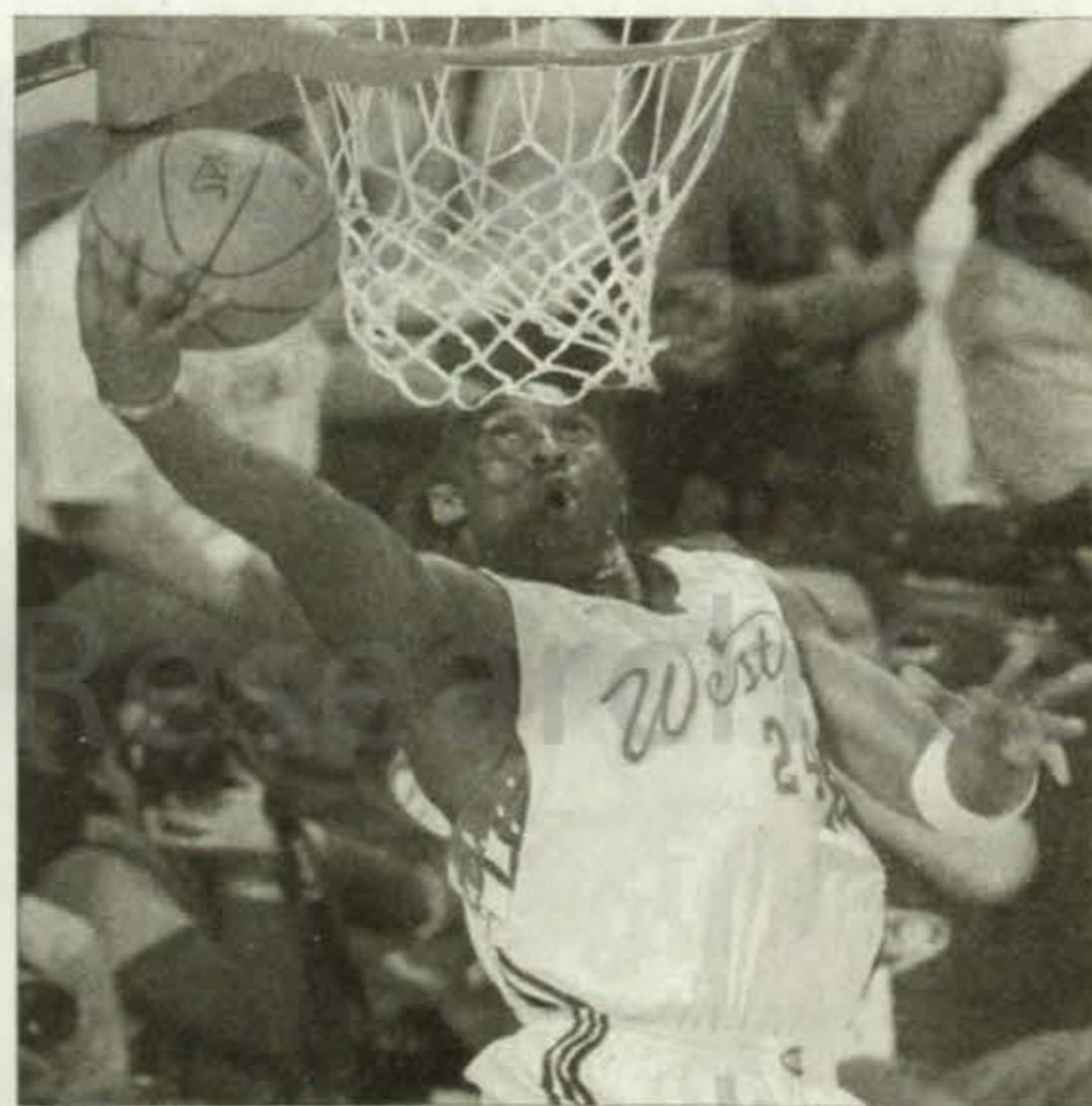
Yao Ming (right) shoots over Shaquille O'Neal (left) during the 2006 All-Star game. Both players will participate in the 2009 All-Star game.



Last year, LeBron James took home the All-Star game's MVP honors. His team currently has the second best record in the NBA's Eastern Conference behind the Boston Celtics.



All-Star Dwight Howard slams home a dunk off a lob pass from LeBron James during last year's All-Star game in New Orleans.



Reigning league MVP, Kobe Bryant was named to his 11th consecutive All-Star game. He was named MVP of the 2002 and 2007 All-Star games.



TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

February 13, 1920

National Negro Baseball League was founded today.

Courtesy of www.todayinsports.com

Sports Trivia!

In what year was former Washington Redskins player Sammy Baugh inducted into the Hall of Fame?

Answer:
Baugh was inducted in 1963.

HOWARD

Ending Violence Against Women



LOVE



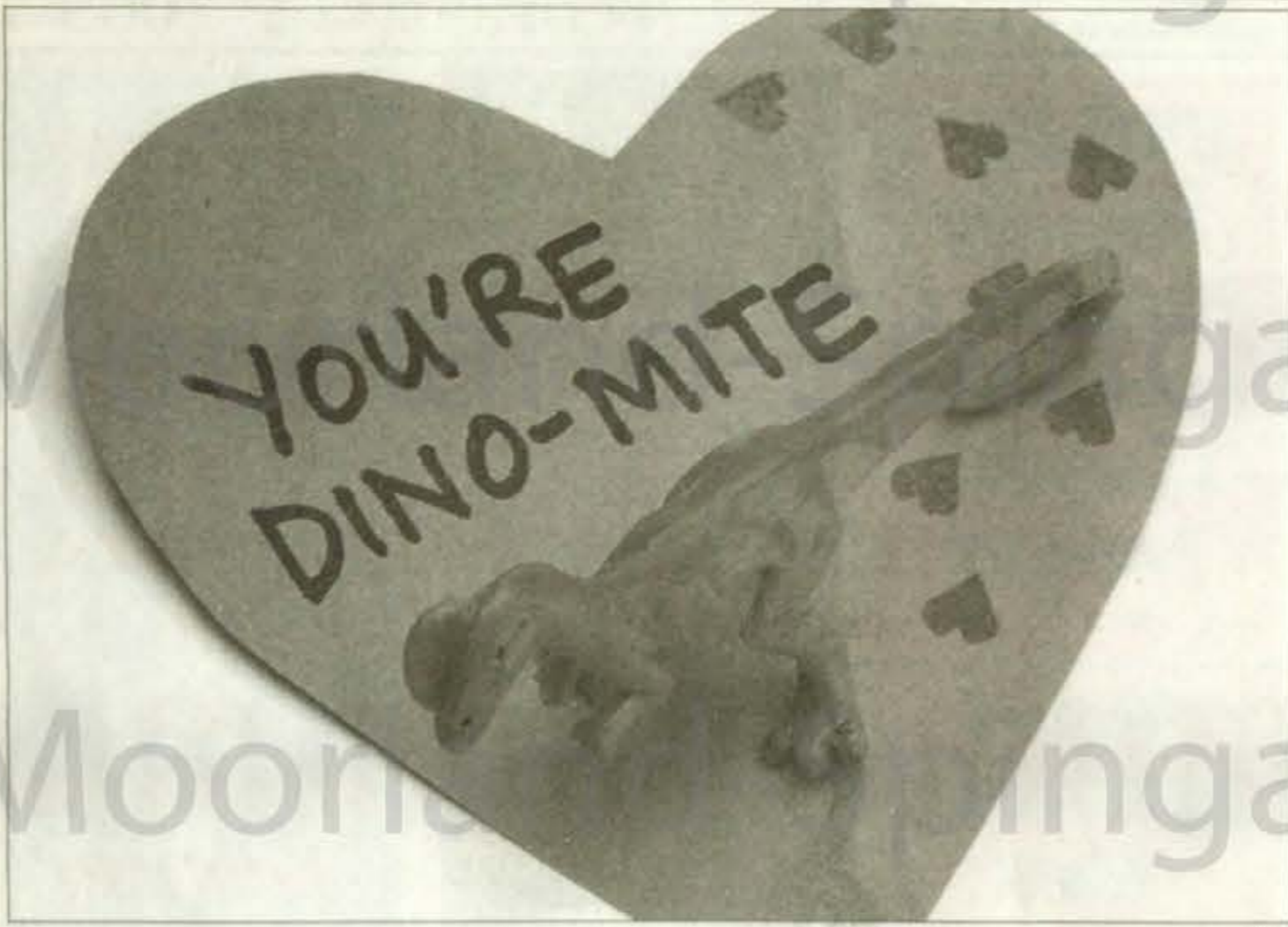
Begins with



ME!

For campus and local resources visit:

www.EVAWHU.com



Happy Valentine's Day, Black Love Day From The Hilltop!

As you read this, you may be thinking about what your significant other is going to give you tomorrow or more importantly, what you are going to do if he or she fails to meet your expectations. You've most likely spent the last few weeks narrowing down options for the big day. Some of your plans might have already fell through and you've realized that your chances of enjoying the weekend are getting slimmer and slimmer.

Well guess what! It's time for you to turn that frown upside down because *The Hilltop* would like to wish you a Happy Valentine's Day and encourage you to take time to love yourself, friends, family and loved ones!

Today is not only the eve of Cupid's holiday, but it is also Black Love Day. Traditionally, Valentine's Day serves as that one day out of the year where love for others is magnified through cards,

candy, intimacy and engagement. But in some cases, it is a reminder of heartbreak and loneliness.

In 1993, Ayo Kendi conceptualized Black Love Day, an African-American holiday that serves as a day of observance of

2. To demonstrate love in action and service by performing at least five specific loving acts - love for the Creator, love for self, love for the family, love for the community and love for the black race.

3. To create new traditions that are based on our African and African-American culture to provide an alternative to Valentine's Day

Nowadays, it's very hard to discuss anything without mentioning our newest president and first lady because they seem to epitomize the things that we hold to high esteem.

Barack and Michelle Obama represent a new model of black love. The admiration of each other is apparent at any function they attend together and it is encouraging to see a power couple in the White House.

Love is in the air! So take advantage of this day of love and cherish whatever means the most to you.

Our View:

Valentine's Day is about loving yourself and those who are closest to you.

love in African-American relationships. Much like Kwanzaa, Black Love Day provides a list of principles alternative to Western cultures. Black Love Day has three objectives:

1. To establish a day to focus on love in order to rejuvenate all of our relationships.

Perspectives

Food for Thought

We have all heard, possibly participated in, the never-ending complaints about Howard's administration, issues with financial aid, problems with housing, empty promises of change, and the list can go on. When the question of what to do arises, most of us resort to the defeatist attitude: "That's just Howard's culture." We accept the notion that, even if our voices are heard, no real progress will be made.

We duped ourselves into believing that we are powerless. We, the students, have become complacent about our roles on this cam-

pus and therefore have pulled the rug of power from under our feet. It's time for us to take initiative and raise the standard of excellence. How can we, the students, make a difference? One way is to elect student-government officials who WE will want to AID throughout the duration of their term in a collaborative effort toward change.

It is campaign season and I encourage the entire student body, including transfer students, graduate students, international students, gays and lesbians, special needs students and any other underrepresented group on campus,

to attend the speak-out sessions. Get to know your candidates, ask questions, and be an informed voter. It should become habitual for us as a student body automatically to see and be the change we wish to see in our university. Malcolm X said, "Everything I've ever felt strongly about, I've done something about." What have you done lately?

- Michelle Raysor, junior speech and applied communications major

Pick Up the Tab

Recently, I had a conversation with some family members about dating that turned into a controversial discussion. A boy took his girlfriend to a concert, and during the concert, he decided that he wanted to leave with his friends. Therefore, his girlfriend had to find another way to get home. I thought that this was unacceptable and completely disrespectful.

Maybe I have false hope that chivalry still exists, but I think that if a male takes a female out, he should bring her back home. Not only did this boyfriend inconvenience his girlfriend, but he made it clear where she falls on his list of priorities. Although I do not agree with his decision, I do think

his girlfriend is quite foolish for allowing him to do that and staying in a relationship with him.

It seems as if in women's fight for equality, we have lowered our expectations for men. This is especially true when it comes to dating. Today, some men feel like they do not even have to pay for a date. They argue that women are just as successful, if not more successful, than men and therefore women should pay for a date just as a man does.

I beg to differ. If we are going on a date, meaning you want to take me out, you should be paying. If not, then I suppose we are just friends, and that's all you expect from me, friendship. Not to men-

tion, if you are always trying to split the check, then you won't last long because I have friends who treat me better than that.

Let's be clear that I am definitely not promoting a gold-digger mentality. We are in a recession, so if you cannot afford the date, make that clear and do not live beyond your means. We are college students; a date at a Japanese steak house may be a far-fetched dream, but eating at the cafe is not a date. Of course there are some exceptions, but in general, the male should be paying for the date.

- Alyssa Tate, freshman political science major

Daily Sudoku

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

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

Do you want to write for The Hilltop?

Come to our next budget meeting!

Sunday @ 6 p.m. in the West Towers

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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

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

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

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

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

Friday February 13, 2009 Poetry Night Coco Libre on Georgia Ave. 8 PM

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

While you are out on the campaign trail the J.H.J. School of Communications Student Council wants you to ... **REMEMBER WHY YOU ARE HERE.**

Remember Bison, no class on Monday, Feb. 16th for Presidents Day. Have a Great Weekend! - The Hilltop Staff

Tuition Scholarship
If you will be a Junior or Senior during the school year 2009-2010 have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA, and demonstrated community involvement, then you are eligible for the Alpha Kappa Alpha Nellie M. Quander Memorial Scholarship. Applications are available at the Undergraduate and Founders Libraries, Office of Financial Aid and the Information Desk in the Blackburn Center. The application deadline is Wednesday, March 11, 2009.

Chicago People's Union presents... "A Woman's Worth" A Evening Dedicated to the Ladies of Howard University Friday, Feb. 13, Starts @ 7PM Annex Seminar Room

Howard University Student Ambassador Organization Presents: Student Ambassador Week 2009

SPRING FEST MODEL CALL 2
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH 7PM
BLACKBURN READING LOUNGE
See flyer for more details.

Election Bowl 2009. 2/13/09 at 6:00 p.m. in the Blackburn Bowling Alley.

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So you will miss classes, but dont miss the hottest rap battle campus has witnessed: UGSA's Verbal Armeggeddon-Round 1! February 16 (President's Day) Blackburn Ballroom at 7! Be there!

VALENTINE'S ROSES, ROSES, ROSES, ROSES, TWEETY BIRD, Pooh Bear, & Gift Bags starting @ \$5.00 TODAY (Feb. 13, 2009) Blackburn Lower Level 10-7pm Call 202-423-6808

Spring Fashion Show: "Walk This Way" MODEL CALL!!! A HUSOP 2011 Production. Interested? Questions? fashionexpress09@gmail.com