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**WEATHER****42**  
**39****Tomorrow:****44**  
**25**

Established

**1924**

# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO. 93

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

## REMEMBER BLACK HISTORY



### Listening Tour Answers Questions About Tuition

BY TILISHA BROWN  
Staff Writer

Following a protest on The Yard and the first installation of the Listening Tours on Friday, administration made an attempt to answer some pressing questions. On Tuesday, in an open discussion regarding the new policy for the tuition increase, students had an opportunity to express their concerns at the second stop on the Listening Tour.

The Interim Provost Alvin Thornton and the Chief Financial Officer Sidney Evans lead the discussion, speaking

to a crowd of approximately 25 about the "new vision" of Howard University.

Thornton came prepared with a 20-page slide show, which demonstrated what the newest tuition increase will do to benefit the student body in the future.

"This is not even primarily about tuition," Thornton said. "It is about a new vision and a new mission."

According to Thornton, the 7.5 percent tuition increase will move toward meeting the need for renovated facilities, increased scholarship funding and retaining valuable staff. The Board of Trustees voted and agreed that tuition will go up

*"Are we going to sit and accept this assault?"*

*- Austin Thompson, senior political science major*

next year and will ultimately increase by 12 percent for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Thornton and Evans said by implementing this new policy, over \$8.6

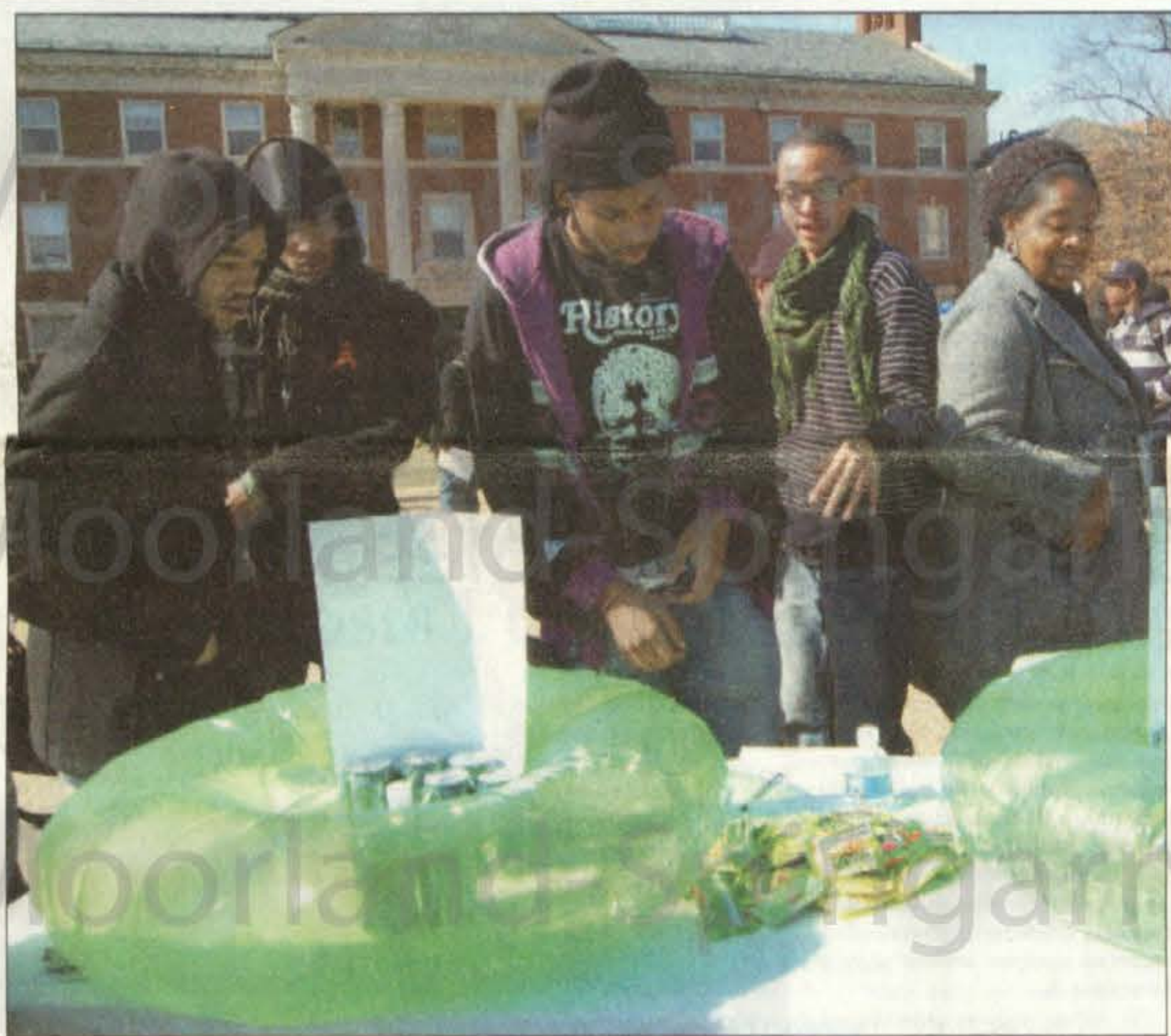
million will be added to the financial aid currently being extended to students. This number, according to Thornton, translates to over 14 percent in increased financial aid — well over the 7.5 percent increase in tuition.

Students showed up with their game faces on. Research had been done and questions were already formulated as they waited for the Provost to finish his presentation.

When the floor was open for questions, students wanted to know where the new revenue would be going and how fi-

nancial aid would be allocated in this new policy.

Austin Thompson, a senior political science major, said the majority of Howard students are on need-based aid. According to Thompson, the tuition increase will bring more wealthy students and the university will do away with the tradition of Howard being an institution that affords middle class students the opportunity to take advantage of higher education.

> See **TOUR**, page 3

Jazelle Hunt - Staff Photographer

Students gathered around tables set up on The Yard yesterday, to meet with student government candidates and enjoy freebies.

### Candidates Campaign on the Yard Two Weeks Before Election

BY JAZELLE HUNT  
Staff Photographer

Student government candidates and their campaign teams took to The Yard yesterday around noon, armed with candy, flyers and ideas.

For Campaign on the Yard Day, sponsored by the General Elections Commission, candidates set up tables in front of Douglass Hall and chatted with students passing by.

About five slates in this year's campaign participated. Most students, attracted by the decorations and crowd, stopped by the tables between classes. The event makes the students

and candidates more accessible to each other than do forums and events, which take place in the evenings. It also allows one-on-one face time, which flyers and the aforementioned methods do not. Junior French major Alexis Wilson believes this is the best aspect of Campaign on the Yard Day.

"I came for some water, but also I want to see what candidates are about because I haven't heard anything," she said. "Some students, like me, don't get to too many events, but since I'm on my way to class, I can see what is going on."

Other students are simply pleased to have a chance to talk to the

candidates.

"They always try to hand me the cards, but I have no time to talk to them when I'm on my way to class," said Alex Barnes, a freshman film major. "[Today is] effective — they stand outside, take time out of their day to talk to us, give us candy. They really want to hear us and get our feedback."

The next sponsored opportunity to hear from the candidates will be the first speakouts for the Graduate Trustee candidates today at noon in the Law School Cafeteria, and the HUSA candidates today at 7 p.m. in the Medical School.

### Bison Football Player Receives Black College All-American Honors

BY TENI OLA OGUNJOBI  
Contributor Writer

Over the weekend, Bison linebacker Endor Cooper received the 2008 Sheridan Broadcasting Network (SBN) Black College All-American honors at an awards reception in Pittsburgh, Pa. Cooper is the only Bison to make the list, chosen as one of three linebackers among 24 athletes from various HBCUs across the country.

"I feel very humble to have been a part of the black college experience," Cooper said. "Not many people recognize that HBCUs have great players, so I was excited about getting this award."

The senior linebacker from Woodbridge, Va. has come a long way. After bouncing back from a knee injury during his 2005 season, Cooper has proven that he has what it takes.

The 2008 season was Cooper's best season yet, recording 71 solo tackles, 54 assists and being named the Mid-Eastern Atlantic Conference (MEAC) Preseason Defensive Player of the Year and receiving All-MEAC first team honors.

"Cooper's a ball player," said former teammate Rudolph Hardie. "He has perfected his craft and when it was his time, he stepped up to the plate and shined."

Number 45 joins the ranks of former Bison and SBN two-time recipient Hardie, now of the NFL Detroit Lions, and three-time recipients Antoine Bethea of the Indianapolis Colts and Tracy White of the Philadelphia Eagles.

According to Hardie, Cooper is the fourth defensive player to be

named a Black College All-American within nine consecutive years.

"It's becoming a Howard Tradition," Hardie said.

Following in the footsteps of his former teammates and Black College All-American recipients, Cooper has plans to enter the NFL draft. If things do not work out, he anticipates graduating with a degree in electrical engineering.

"I want to thank my family and friends for their support, my coaches for believing in me and my teammates," Cooper said. "It's a team sport, so without my team I wouldn't have been able to be this good."



Photo Courtesy of Howard University Athletics

Bison linebacker Endor Cooper became the fourth defensive player from Howard to be named a Black College All-American.

### California Leading in Economic Freefall, Eliminating Jobs

BY OMARI EVANS  
Staff Writer

Due to California's poor financial circumstances and the failure for state lawmakers to make a decision on a compromised budget, the state plans to eliminate up to 20,000 government employees.

California lawmakers made great attempts during the weekend to ensure that enough votes could be counted on to pass a new budget. The budget was

negotiated by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and four party leaders, two from each party. However, on Tuesday the budget was not passed.

The failed budget plan proposed \$15.1 billion in program cuts, \$14.4 billion in temporary tax increases and \$11.4 billion in borrowing.

"In the absence of a budget, the governor must do everything he can to cut back on state spending," spokesman Aaron McLearn said.

As a result, notices were sent out

Tuesday by the Schwarzenegger administration to warn of future layoffs.

Of the 20,000 employees to be eliminated, 10,000 are to be assigned new jobs and the other 10,000 would be bluntly laid off.

Sophomore engineering major Tyrus Hairston is a California native and plans to head back after graduation despite economic problems in the state.

"I have to go back," Hairston said. "Because all my family and history is there and you can't just up and leave."

However, Hairston said if he gets an offer for more money in another state after graduation, he might ultimately decide to move elsewhere.

"I feel like Governor Schwarzenegger has at least a partial amount of blame for what is happening to us," he said.

The budget did not pass due to the Schwarzenegger administration's failure to persuade enough Republicans to pass the bill. Republicans for the past year have sworn that the state would not raise taxes, and the bill would force them

to do so. However, it is uncertain how the state will continue to run without the passing of the bill.

"It is a dramatic time," said the State Senate's president Darrell Steinberg to the *New York Times*. "The solvency of the state is on the line. It is really quite a system where the fate of the state rests upon the shoulders of a couple of members of a minority party. The system frankly needs to be changed."

California is the third largest state in the country.

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# Randy Hampton: Senior Spotlight

BY EBONY MOORE  
Contributing Writer

At the end of the 2008-2009 men's basketball season, the Bison will say farewell to two of its own. One of the pair is graduate student and forward Randy Hampton, who despite his short-lived athletic career at Howard, proved to impact the program greatly.

Originally a member of the men's basketball program at Drexel University, Hampton decided to pack up his things in Philadelphia and head back home to the district after his sophomore season. "Ultimately, I transferred because I wanted a change in venue," Randy said. "I wanted to be closer to home and my family, regain a better focus on my academics all the while continuing to play basketball."

After sitting out for one year due to NCAA regulations for transferring athletes, Hampton made his debut in 2007 as the starting forward for the Bison. His major contributions to the team earned him a key role in the program as team captain, and for the first time in a while, Hampton felt like the ball was in his court.

"I was having fun. I enjoyed the game again and being on a team with a bunch of guys who support you and have your back, there is nothing like it," Hampton said.

And with this newfound position and role of leadership, Hampton would face several hardships that would eventually prove miniscule in his overall career. In the course of both seasons, he experienced a few injuries that forced him to repeatedly miss games and temporarily weakened his performance.

"I suffered from a concussion in my first season, and back and foot injuries in the next," Hampton said. "It was tough because I realized it was my last season, and I wanted to be out there with my team every night. So I rehabilitated as quickly as I could so that I could get back out there with my team."

In addition to basketball, Randy found that the demands of his academics would also place a lot of pressure on him.

"I had to learn how to balance my studies and basketball because both were



Photo Courtesy of Oscar Merriola IV

Senior forward, Hampton, is averaging 8.6 points this season. He is shooting 49 percent from the field. He is currently a graduate student and will be graduating in 2010.

extremely important to me; I feel that I have done a fairly good job in maintaining them both," Hampton said.

Although his basketball career is coming to a close, his transition into the corporate world has yet to take flight. As a first year graduate student, Hampton plans to obtain his M.A. in monetary policy in 2010.

He also signed with Grant Thornton, a local accounting firm out of Virginia, as an independent auditor and is scheduled to begin work with the corporation this upcoming fall.

In addition to his efforts to help his peers by tutoring in an array of subjects from mathematics to economics and accounting, Hampton aspires to eventually give back to his community through basketball. "I want to get back

in the gym one day to coach and mentor young players," Hampton said. "I would love to return back to Dunbar, my former high school, and possibly become an assistant coach in the basketball program there."

Apart from educational and athletic standpoints, Hampton feels that coming to Howard rewarded him with something grand, that far exceeds all of the victories he achieved on the court and in the classroom.

"I became a man when I came to Howard," Randy said. "I was forced to become independent and to go after what I wanted. But more importantly I realized that young black men can exceed in areas far beyond athletics, but in the corporate world as well."

## Opportunity of a Lifetime Achieved

Howard broadcast journalism major is chosen to be a commentator for ESPNU

BY TERRICKA JOHNSON  
Editorial Assistant

If someone happens to see Antonio LaGon on the Yard and wonders why his face is so familiar, do not worry.

LaGon, a junior broadcast journalism major from Washington, D.C., was recently chosen to be the student commentator for the ESPNU broadcast of the Bison's triumphant battle against the Bulldogs of South Carolina State University (74-65).

"I was an intern for Washington Post Live/Comcast SportsNet. I did some anchoring for them over the summer and I met a guy who now works for ESPNU," said LaGon, explaining how he came across the opportunity.

Although LaGon's story of how he stumbled into sports journalism may seem like something out of a book, it is a story of complete chance.

"I was on a date and my favorite writer, Russ Thaler, was on the train. I left my date and chased him down, literally, on the Metro. I sat beside him and just started talking sports," LaGon stated.

"He told me I should really get involved in sports and gave me an internship over the break. I was the second Howard student to get an internship at Comcast SportsNet," LaGon said.

Though only a junior, LaGon's resume boasts the titles of very recognizable names, not only in the sports world, but

politics as well.

"I have done a program with NBC. Right now I'm working with C-SPAN because I'm looking to go more towards political news, rather than just sports," LaGon stated.

In addition to receiving media attention, LaGon is also acquiring newfound fame on the campus of Howard as well.

"Honestly, I've never gotten so many friend requests or just acknowledgment period. For one, I am a transfer," LaGon said.

"It's kind of like a breath of fresh air. I'm getting to know a lot more students and doing a lot more networking," he said.

As any student would be, LaGon also admitted to being a little anxious before his debut ESPNU appearance.

"I was a bit nervous, but one thing about anchoring is that it is based on your character. Once I got into the swing of things, as far as telling jokes, everything came natural," he said.

According to LaGon, though the field of journalism is difficult to break into, he already has some potential employers in mind and even offers insight to other students with career aspirations in journalism.

"Go the extra mile and do not be discouraged. Keep everything business and the pleasure will be there later," said LaGon.

# Bison Head Cheerleading Coach Juggles Two Jobs

BY RYAN FOSTER  
Contributing Writer

"It's like someone puts a crown over your head and it takes a lifetime to grow into it." This quote by former Dean of Chapel, Bernard Richards hangs on the wall over Spencer Chenier's head as he periodically checks his e-mail. Chenier's infant son smiles sweetly from a collection of photographs posted strategically around his orderly desk space.

Arriving in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 1999, Chenier came to Howard University as a college freshman majoring in education in hopes of becoming an early-childhood teacher. "I still want to teach one day, but I just can't get away from Howard, I'm not ready to go," Chenier chuckled. "In theory I'm still in the field of education, just not early childhood."

When asked how he became involved in cheerleading, Chenier remembers himself as a high-spirited college junior, and dedicated member of a group called Section 8, whose main purpose was to attend basketball games and heckle players of opposing teams.

At a particular game, he and a couple friends implored the cheerleading coach to appoint them as "water boys" for the cheerleaders. Instead of squirting water and wiping the cheerleaders' sweat away, the boys were dared by the coach to do something a little different.

"She said all we had to do was shout into megaphones and help the girls with stunting. I wasn't doing any of that jumping and dancing though," he laughed. "So two friends and I became Howard's first male cheerleaders."

With the urging of the coach, Chenier applied and was accepted to a position as assistant coach after graduation. But come fall, the previous coach didn't return to her position, forcing Chenier into the position of Head Cheerleading Coach.

"I wound up finding a Co-Coach who was able to teach the girls, because I still don't do any of that jumping and dancing," said Chenier. "So I still get to handle the things I was meant to handle originally."

In addition to his position as Head Cheerleading Coach, Chenier also serves as Coordinator of Young Alumni and Student Programs for the university.

As coordinator, Chenier's job consists largely of attempting to keep students connected to Howard after graduation by a number of programs created to help alumni connect, give back and realize that every little piece counts.

Although both of Chenier's positions are completely different in terms of duties, he feels his job as Coordinator of Young Alumni and Student Programs is more challenging, while his job as a cheerleading coach is more time consuming.

"After graduation, so many

students leave Howard without giving us a way to keep in contact with them, and not necessarily knowing how important it is to stay connected and give back," Chenier said. Although working to improve and maintain effective alumni relations proves difficult, coaching the cheerleading team is also difficult.

With practices every morning from 6-8 a.m., constant traveling and games on the weekends, coaching the cheerleading team takes an immense amount of time and commitment.

"It takes a huge amount of dedication not only on the part of the coaches, but also on the part of the cheerleaders. You have to be dedicated; it's a difficult life," Chenier said.

Nearing the end of her second year of cheering for the Bison, sophomore television production major Kindsey Young has become very close with Chenier. "He can be kind of hard on us sometimes, but he really does have the best interest of the team in mind," she said.

As a Howard graduate and an individual who works closely with students, Chenier understands the predicaments students encounter during their tenure at Howard.

"Students now are always angry about one part of Howard, whether it is long lines, dealing with people in the A-building or scrounging around for housing," said Chenier. "But all these trials help build character. We try to give

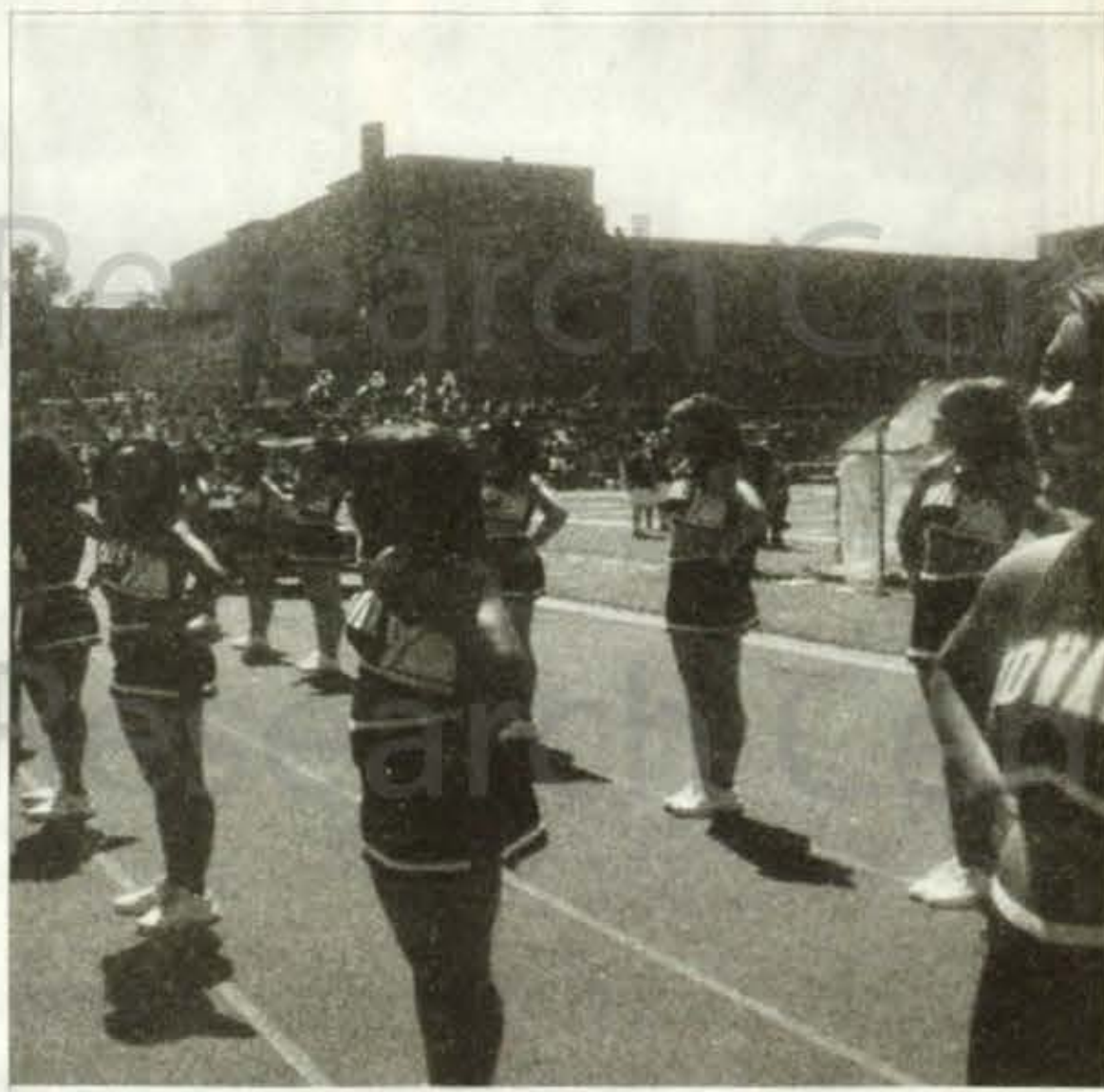


Photo Courtesy of Oscar Merriola IV

The HU cheerleading squad is coached by Bison Alumni Spencer Chenier. It is his second season as head coach.

back so that future generations don't have to deal with the same issues."

Fans can catch the Bison cheerleading squad in action tonight. The men's basketball team will be taking

on the Morgan State Bears at 7 p.m. in Burr Gymnasium. The Bison are 7-18 this season with a 5-6 record against MEAC opponents.

## TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

February 18, 1986

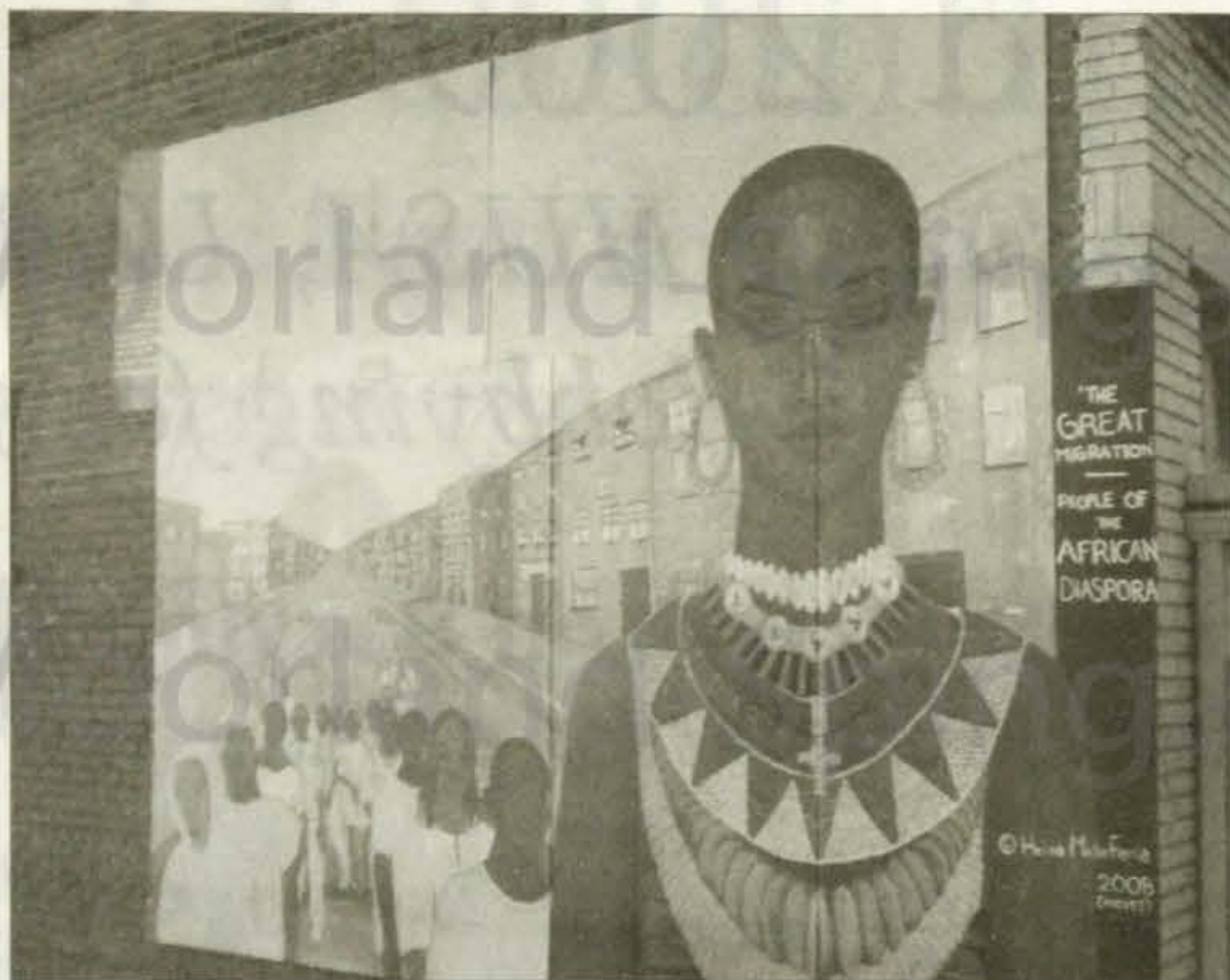
San Antonio's Alvin Robertson records the NBA's second quadruple double.

Courtesy of www.todayinsports.com

Sports Trivia!  
Who was the first head coach of the Seattle Seahawks?

Answer:  
Jack Patera coached the Seahawks from 1976 to 1982.





Candace Smith - Contributing Photographer  
Artist Helena Metaferia jumped at the opportunity to improve the facade of one building that lines Georgia Avenue with a mural about African immigrants who have made their way all around the world.

## Ethiopian Artist Creates Mural to Bring Sunshine, Community to Georgia Ave.

BY CANDACE SMITH  
Contributing Writer

Georgia Avenue may not be the most scenic place in Washington, D.C. Often cluttered with litter and teeming with pests, this street is often described as something other than beautiful. But artist Helena Metaferia, in her recent mural "The Great Migration: People of the African Diaspora" located in the Georgia Avenue-Petworth area, has managed to transform an otherwise bleak slab of brick into a community emblem.

The mural, bursting with vibrant colors, is a portrait of a group of black people, all in pristine white robes, being led down the radiant Georgia Avenue by a beautiful, meditative woman, clad in African garb.

Local business owner Juliana Humphrey, whose store provides the canvas for the mural, appreciates the mural for what it says about the community.

"I think it's very attractive. So far everyone who has seen it has liked it so it's been very good for the neighborhood," Humphrey said. "Georgia Avenue is an area that a lot of people migrate to and one of the only areas that you can find so many immigrants. There's so much diversity here."

The artist, Metaferia, is a native of D.C. and the daughter of Ethiopian immigrants. She said she has always felt a connection to D.C.

"There was always a strong Ethiopian community in Washington, D.C. and I always felt a lot of love," she said.

When she was contacted by the D.C. Commission of Arts and Humanities to work on a new project, she had little hesitation.

The project highlighted the beautification of different areas around the District. The Commission chose Metaferia based on other works that she had completed and

informed her that she was to work in the Georgia-Ave Petworth area.

True to her roots, Metaferia chose to highlight the diversity of the community.

"I chose to do something about the African immigrant community and really focus in on women, culture and heritage," she said. "My art is mostly about experiences so whatever experiences I've gone through paint the direction for my artwork."

Though she chose to do a mural for this project, Metaferia is an artist whose talents are not confined to mere paper and paint. A self-described visual artist, Metaferia also teaches art classes to local students, has paintings featured in several galleries and is a teacher of the "Healing Arts."

As a result of her expertise in different forms of art, she has lived in major cities from D.C. to Philadelphia.

rently resides.

Metaferia feels as though projects such as these are desperately needed.

"I feel like arts are underplayed in this community," Metaferia said. "It is the responsibility of artists to be the keepers of culture."

She tries to show her support for art-based programs by making funding for such programs a priority.

"I signed a petition that Quincy Jones started that advocated for more arts programs," Metaferia said. "It's a great outlet for youth and something that people need."

Indeed, her art has proven to reach many generations of the community. Carrie Crews, a freshman at Roosevelt High School, felt a connection to this depiction of her community.

"It looks like the neighborhood, I see the corner store and the apartment buildings," Crews said.

## HUSA Hosts Forum to Explain Tuition Hike

Continued from FRONT, TOUR

Thornton and Evans countered this argument with claims that the increases in tuition will enable the university to make more aid available so that the current demographic will not change.

The general atmosphere of the room was one in an attempt to find common ground among the students and the administration on this issue. Students sought to understand the basic principles of this new policy and faculty tried to explain.

"The majority of students that I have spoken to understand that prices are going up," said Asia Smith, a junior management major and School of Business Student Council president. "The fundamental problem is understanding where this money is going."

It was assured that accountability measures will be made and that committees would be formed so students could be directly included in the decision-making process.

Promises were made that financial statements and updates on deci-

sions made by the Budget Advisory Committee will be made available on the Internet to students, maintaining the transparency that students have asked for.

Thornton repeatedly emphasized the importance of the meetings held between students and administrators to gain an understanding between both sides.

"One thing we cannot have is alienation from the students," he said, "because they don't believe in what we are saying."

Thornton suggested a second meeting to address any unmet concerns and questions. For students like Thompson, this is imperative.

"Are we going to sit and accept this assault?" Thompson asked. "It is up to us as students to start a national movement to claim education as our national right."

The next Listening Tour event will be Monday, Feb. 23 in the College of Medicine at 7 p.m., followed by another at the School of Law at the same time on March 2.









# tion Season Ignites

graduate Trustee candidates  
ur March 3 vote



Photo Courtesy of Bryan Smart  
HUSA presidential and vice-presidential candidates Bryan Smart (left) and Jerome Joseph (right) say passion is the driving force for their campaign.

## Smart, Joseph See the 'Bigger Picture' for all Howard Students

BY JESSICA LEWIS  
Staff Writer

Executive presidential candidate Bryan Smart and executive vice presidential candidate Jerome Joseph built a platform and a 13-year friendship upon one single entity, the people.

"Our whole concept is making sure that all students are included," said Smart, current president of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Both candidates, who are Houston natives, describe passion as the backbone that will carry their message to represent all students if elected.

They said the passion sparking the flame of the Smart-Joseph ticket derives from values instilled in them from family traditions.

"I can honestly say that my family has impacted me the most," said Joseph, representative for the Undergraduate Student Assembly.

"For instance, my grandma kind of raised me because my mom used to work at night," he said. "This woman is so passion-

ate about everything. When she wants something, that's it; she will go for it and ride all day for it."

However, Smart describes his own "ride for it" passion as his biggest weakness. He said if a student confronts him with a problem, he focuses on that problem until the end causing him to, at times, forget the bigger picture.

Joseph describes himself as a person who focuses on the objective as a whole. He admits that, at times, he does micromanage, but is slowly learning to delegate duties to his colleagues.

According to Smart, Joseph's passionate nature qualifies him as a "firecracker."

"Light Jerome up, then all of a sudden...boom," Smart said, describing his running mate. "His passion not only keeps him going, but myself."

Extended family members played a significant role in Smart's development. He was guided by his uncle, the pastor at Kashmere Gardens Missionary Baptist Church.

"My uncle took good ole' Kashmere Gardens and turned it into one of the premiere churches in the community," Smart

said. "He integrated his love for individuals and people into his position as pastor."

According to Smart, his uncle took his position and transformed it to include community outreach for HIV/AIDS awareness. Smart said he wishes to emulate his uncle's passion and care for people in his own leadership roles.

Joseph said Smart is on the right track, describing his greatest strength as his genuine nature.

Talking to those who will listen is the common goal that brought these two back together after separating in high school.

Both were working for "Talent Search," a program geared toward preparing minorities for college, when each one learned through the coordinator that the other was admitted to Howard.

Once reunited at Howard, these two friends used their different personalities to build a platform incorporating all people under one umbrella by finding a common background.

## Student Government

**President**

shall serve as the head and Official Representative of the Student Body on a non-partisan basis"

University-wide

HUSA

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Policy Board

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Staff

United States

Branch

+

**Policy Board**

"The HUSA Policy Board shall consist solely of the appointees selected by the HUSA President from each school and college and approved by the General Assembly."

- Shall have the exclusive power to interpret the constitution.
- Shall have the power to require, hear and approve all reports from HUSA concerning University-wide matters.
- Shall have the power to require, hear and approve all reports from the General Assembly.

*Similar to Supreme Court*

- Compiled by Jessica Lewis, Staff Writer

## Promises to Focus on 'Harmonizing' Student Body

students, faculty and administration alike.

"I'm down to earth," Anozie said, "the same person who you can see in a business suit representing the voice of students but then also chill with you in the cafeteria as we 'stanky leg' and 'dougie.'"

Through the "Evolution," Anozie has created a platform that he believes can be achieved in his eight months of serving as undergraduate trustee.

"I'm providing evolutionary ideas and I want people who were once non-excited to be excited and want to contribute to the future of this university," Anozie said.

Anozie plans to build upon the progression of the previous

undergraduate trustees have done and bring about excitement and change.

"It's not rocket science or outlandish," Anozie said. "Everything is plausible and will bring about a lot of change."

According to Anozie, one of the key tenants of his platform is "classroom sponsorship," which provides alumni with the knowledge of knowing exactly where their money is going.

"I am going to lead in being the student's voice in the board room," Anozie said.

Anozie believes his innovative and practical ideas will be sure to bring the "Evolution" to Howard University, as he advocates for the student body in the boardroom.

## Spencer Aims for Undergraduate Student Unity

BY CAMILLE AUGUSTIN  
Editorial Assistant

Undergraduate trustee candidate Nastassja Spencer is hoping to bring a fresh perspective to student government by running on the platform "I am You: Harmonizing the Undergraduate Student Body to Elicit More Student Influence on Howard Politics and the Relevant Policies."

Though she has never held a position in student government, Spencer is confident that her political inexperience will work in her favor when it comes to gaining the trust of her peers and being an advocate for the student body to the Board of Trustees at Howard University.

"That's what makes me different from the other candidates," Spencer said. "My decision to run for this position is not based on past experience, but on the fact that I actually want to do something."

Spencer said she would like to be "up-close-and-personal" with the decision-makers and those who govern the university.

Spencer said her main goal is to bring the undergraduate student body together because "change hasn't really occurred unless numbers get involved."

Her platform includes initia-

tives she hopes will enhance the quality of education, such as improving the quality of administrative services to students and departmental equipment renovations, enhancing student involvement on campus, improving transparency in the allocation of tuition and implementing a proficiency exam for transfer students that would allow them to regain transfer credits rejected by their respective departments.

The primary role of the undergraduate trustee is to advocate for the needs of the 7,000 undergraduate students at Howard and convey their thoughts to the 29 other board members who are tasked with making the decisions that will affect every student in the university.

Spencer said her drive makes her the ideal candidate for the position.

"I refuse to back down until the point is conveyed and the attention is



Photo Courtesy of Nastassja Spencer  
Undergraduate trustee candidate Nastassja Spencer hopes to gain the trust of the student body and to unite students.

brought to that issue," Spencer said.

If elected, she said her number one priority will be the students.

"At the end of the day, the job of the trustee is to represent the students," Spencer said, "not to succumb to the pressures or influence of having to comply with other opinions in the board room."

*Today: Candidates debate at a speakout in the College of Medicine at 7 p.m.*

*Tomorrow: The Hilltop introduces Graduate Trustee candidates*

*Malik Washington, write-in candidate for Undergraduate Trustee, will be featured in tomorrow's issue.*



# President Obama Signs Economic Stimulus Bill

BY MICHAEL TOMLIN-CRUTCHFIELD  
Contributing Writer

President Barack Obama signed the economic stimulus bill into law yesterday in Denver, calling it the "most sweeping economic recovery package in our history."

Since the introduction of President Obama's \$860 billion stimulus plan, arguments and public opinion divided people across the nation. The plan seemed to be going in favor of President Obama until it was hit with extreme opposition from the Republican party.

When the bill landed in the House of Representatives in mid-January, debate broke out amongst the Democrat and Republican parties over the amount of the bill and its purpose. Democrats mimicked the message of President Obama saying that the bill is necessary to resuscitate the economy from its current state; while house Republicans took a stand against the bill saying that it contained too much wasteful spending and unfair tax cuts.

The first vote on the bill on Jan. 28, dropped the amount of the bill to \$819 billion with a vote of 244 to 188, with no democratic support. The bill increased to \$838 billion after the democrats won it over in the Senate; only three Republicans voted for it.

Following that vote, to avoid a divide in the Congress, negotiations were made and the bill was lowered to \$789 billion on February 11. The final approval came from the Senate in a vote for the stimulus plan to be \$787 billion dollars.

Many people were anxious about the outcome of the bill because of the



President Barack Obama signs a series of executive orders on Friday, January 30, 2009 in the East Room of the White House in Washington, D.C.

Chuck Kennedy (MCT)

potential impact of the bill on everyday Americans.

Victoria Iworah, freshman marketing major, said she is eager to see the effects of the bill, but remains skeptical.

"To a certain extent I think it's a good thing because it could be the economic push that the economy needs to help us out of this recession," she said.

"But to a certain extent I think it's

a bad thing because they are not having people pay for their wrong doings."

With all of the promises that the bill has to offer, the fact that the bill finally passed will offer hope to the people. The only question is how long will the effects of the bill take to go into people's wallets.

The stimulus plan will affect Americans in several ways by cutting taxes, improving infrastructure, health insurance, energy, schools, reducing national debt, impacting the environment, police, higher education, and helping the poor. Workers can expect to get a \$400 tax credit and \$800 for couples. Low-income families can expect a \$1,000 tax credit for three or more children. College students can expect a \$2,500 tax credit to cut costs for the year.

Under the COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act) program, the government will pick up 65 percent of the premiums for people who have lost their jobs for healthcare. \$90 billion will go to the rebuilding of the roads and national infrastructure.

Americans who buy an energy efficient air conditioning system will get a \$1,500 tax cut. There is also a \$54 billion fund for state budget cuts to improve schools and educational programs such as Headstart. To benefit college students, the Pell Grant will jump from \$4,731 to \$5,350 on July 1, and \$54 billion of the plan will go to the modernization of facilities. There is also a \$3 billion emergency fund for families in need and an \$87 billion Medicaid increase to avoid the cut-off of people in need of healthcare.

Freshman film production major, Tristen Neal, said the bill still does not cover enough areas in the economy.

"I feel like it's not inclusive enough and it doesn't cover enough areas. There should be more to the bill. It's a good start but it's not good enough."

The passing of the Obama stimulus plan will not only help the American people get through the recession, but it will also severely increase the national debt. Although, the nation is in financial need, there is no guarantee the bill will be the miracle that takes the country through the recession. However, with proper fiscal management, each American can make a difference and make it through the recession.

Additional reporting by Taherah Hairston, Staff Writer

## Stimulus Bill Breakdown

- Low income families will receive a \$1,000 tax cut.
- College students will receive a \$2,500 tax cut.
- \$90 billion will go to the rebuilding of the roads and national infrastructure.
- The Pell Grant for college students will increase from \$4,731 to \$5,350.
- There will be a \$400 tax credit for unmarried workers.
- \$800 tax credit will be awarded to couples.
- Americans who purchase an energy efficient air conditioning system will get a \$1,500 tax credit.

For more on where the stimulus money will go, read the above story!



## Odd Angles

Strange news from around the world

- According to AOL.com, tens of thousands of people gathered in a Mexico City square to set a new record for the world's largest group kiss on Saturday. An official with Guinness World Records confirms 39,897 people were locking lips with someone -- or in the case of one man, getting a lick from his pet Chihuahua -- in the Valentine's Day extravaganza.
- Two roommates began fighting over a parking space on Thursday night in Milwaukee, Ore. and the dispute ended when one man bit off the other's earlobe, AOL.com reported. Police said it appeared that the victim came home and parked in a spot preferred by his roommate, starting the fight.
- An Ohio man held a woman captive in handcuffs and an adult diaper for three days while he read Bible passages to her, police said. He picked up the woman Wednesday night in Detroit after she told him she had nowhere to stay and brought her to his home in Toledo, about 55 miles away, according to CBS. After she fell asleep he handcuffed her wrists and ankles, gagged her, undressed her and put her in an adult diaper, then read Bible passages. He was charged with kidnapping and felonious assault.

Information courtesy of AOL.com  
- Compiled by Angela P. Smith, Staff Writer

## How Well Do You Know Your ABCs?

The United States government has a plethora of administrative agencies all identified by letter acronyms. Think you can name them all?

INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service)- The INS is the government agency that oversees lawful immigration to the U.S. They monitor immigrant visa petitions, naturalization petitions and asylum and refugee applications.

IP (Institute of Peace)- The U.S. Institute of Peace is dedicated to the cause of international peace. It is a U.S. office that promotes and preserves perpetual peace.

IACB (Indian Arts and Crafts Board)- The IACB promotes the academic development of American Indians and Alaska Natives of federally recognized Tribes through the expansion of the Adian arts and crafts markets. They provide general business advice and promotional opportunities to Native American artists, crafts people, businesses, museums and cultural centers of federally recognized Tribes.

Information courtesy of Usa.gov  
- Compiled by Angela P. Smith, Staff Writer

## Happenings From Home

### News from various states in the country

#### Alabama

Montgomery - The late Coretta Scott King has been selected for the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame. She will be recognized with a bronze plaque at an installation ceremony on March 5 at Judson College in Marion, which is near where she was born.

#### New York

Brentwood - A man whose own car was outfitted with an anti-drunk-driving device rented another car and crashed it while intoxicated, police said. Marvin Rice, 27, of Shirley lost control of the rental and hit a utility pole. He had agreed after a DWI conviction to have his car equipped with an ignition interlock device with "blow and go" technology.

#### Tennessee

Nashville - The Tennessee State Fair hopes new plans will make it more attractive to residents beyond Nashville. There will be lower prices, a new midway, more focus on Tennessee products and marketing and a kid zone. The fair, which has struggled to maintain attendance in recent years, will be held Sept. 11-20.

#### Texas

Galveston - Temporary trailer parks will house hundreds of students planning a working spring break for Hurricane Ike cleanup. Several pastors asked the City Council to allow temporary recreational vehicle parking in areas not designed as trailer parks, such as church lots.

Information courtesy of USA Today.com  
- Compiled by Angela P. Smith, Staff Writer



# Growing Up in Big Families Teaches Independence, Compassion

BY JENERRA C. ALBERT  
Staff Writer

Growing up with four brothers and two sisters, Ashleigh Owens was used to sharing chores and fist fights with her siblings.

Owens, a junior psychology major, and her twin sister are the youngest of seven children. According to Owens, growing up, most of her friends were either in awe at the organized chaos within their household or seven or either quickly ran in the other direction.

"My house was always fun and there's always something happening," Owens said, "but it does get intrusive sometimes."

Owens and her twin sister, much like other children who happen to fall at the youngest end of their siblings, often caught the major responsibilities of chores and "older-brother beat-downs."

This is something that Lennika Bynum, a sophomore fashion merchandising major, also recalls during her years of adolescence. Bynum is also a twin, and they are the youngest of four.

According to Bynum, her siblings are all very close now, but growing up it was not that way.

"We would argue all the time, but when we got older we realized we are all very similar and get along now," Bynum said. "I can talk to my siblings about subjects I can't talk to my parents about."

She said arguing was typical in her home between her and her older brothers.

"Since my sister and I were the youngest, we got most of the attention," Bynum said. "I think my middle brother was upset for this and lashed his anger out on us by beating us up or picking on us."

According to licensed clinical social worker Barbara-Gina Garrett, it is

perfectly normal for older or middle children to lash out because they feel like the younger children get most of the attention.

"It's important for parents not to over exert attention onto children who are either younger or children who are trouble makers," Garrett said. "It makes others feel uncared for or less important."

According to Garrett, parents tend to give more attention to children with either physical or mental deficiencies, but feels it is important to give fair amounts of attention to children who do well also.

Garrett said she also feels older siblings have a significant role in large families.

"Sometimes parents and older siblings overlook their influence," Garrett said. "Older siblings can influence kids a great deal, whether in bullying or helping."

Both parents and older siblings must be conscious of the impact and influence they have on younger children, particularly when it comes to labeling or comparing their different talents.

"Some siblings will develop a low opinion of themselves if parents often compare them to each other, both directly and indirectly," Garrett said. "The larger the family, the more slots to fill and more to compare themselves to."

For Erinn Jenkins, a sophomore political science major, growing up in a large family left little room for dull moments.

As the middle child of four, Jenkins often found herself with many responsibilities around the house, and feels this contributed to her development as an independent and mature young adult.

"Growing up, my responsibilities were to clean the kitchen and me and my older sister would switch off monthly," Jenkins said. "When she left



Photo Credit

While growing up with a full house can be stressful, many people look back with fond memories and a solid support system. Students with siblings say, depending on the age of the siblings, each one plays a different role in the household.

for Howard, my parents tried to make my younger sister help, but it didn't really work so I cleaned the bathroom and any other household duties that needed to be done."

Her responsibilities at home also made it easier to move out as she made the transition into college.

"I have a really good relationship

with my siblings," Jenkins said. "I talk to them at least once a week."

She said leaving for college was a little difficult, but she was able to get by. "It was kind of hard, but not really because I am my own person," Jenkins said. "Although I missed them, I was able to make it without all of my siblings."

The responsibility of caring for

several brothers and sisters has taught Jenkins lessons in sharing, patience and compassion.

"My parents always said that my siblings are all we have, so treat them with respect," said Jenkins. "I wouldn't change how I grew up for anything."

## Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes Still Delivering Music

BY KEVIN JAMES  
Contributing Writer

In 2002, fans saw the death of Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes as the end of Lopes' music — or so they thought.

On Jan. 27, 2009, Mass Appeal Entertainment released "Eye Legacy," bringing her music back to life.

The posthumous "Eye Legacy" is a collection of 12 unreleased tracks, including several re-tooled tracks from her 2001 overseas-released album "Supernova," loaded with artists such as Free, former VJ of BET's 106th & Park, Bobby Valentino, Lil' Mama, Boyz II Men's Wanya Morris, Chamillionaire and Bone Crusher.

Medical Student Tara Brayboy believes posthumous albums should remain unreleased unless the artist requests it happen in the event of his or her demise.

"I believe that there is too much potential for exploitation by music producers," Brayboy said.

On the other hand, sophomore fashion merchandising major Sharice Francis said it can be therapeutic for fans to hear their favorite artists, even after they are deceased. According to Francis, it "softens the blow of their death when you know you can still hear music from

them."

While a number of the tunes will make listeners want to dance, some of them do come with a message.

With Free's help, Lopes sends an uplifting message to confused young women in "Spread Your Wings," assuring them "It's never too late to lose who you are/ And choose who you are supposed to be." Almost reminiscent of Tupac Shakur's, "Brenda's got a Baby," is Lopes's "Let It Go," with Boyz II Men member Wanya Morris. It tells the fictional story of a young girl from a rough home and her kidnapping.

Dedicating a verse to a lover, friends and the group of which she was a member, TLC, was the ode to undying love, "Through the Pain," featuring City High members Ryan Toby and Claudette Ortiz.

Rochelle Goldsmith, General Manager of Mass Appeal Entertainment, had a close connection to the project from the start.

The album was originally set for release on Oct. 28, 2008, but was pushed back to Nov. 11 and finally released in January.

According to Goldsmith, the dates were pushed back in order to make sure that both the music and promotion were of the highest quality.

"By utilizing more time, we were able to secure some extra features," Goldsmith said, "as well as work on the music and artwork a little longer."

While Goldsmith believes some aspects of working with a deceased artist's music can be difficult, she believes that this album compliments Lopes's legacy.

"You can only hope that the artist would support it," Goldsmith said, although she believes fans will be pleased with the album. "From the lyrics and production to sharing this music with the fans world-wide, it's all positive."

Lopes had a major impact on her fans through her music.

"She crossed gender barriers," said senior psychology major Zanifa Campbell. "She showed the industry that a woman can MC, sing, rap, dance and date without being half-naked. She proved that not only sex can sell."

While Lopes' legacy to some may simply be connected to her music, others remember her for much more.

"Everyone remembers her trips to help the people in Honduras," Francis said.

Lopes was known to frequently volunteer in Honduras; she bought a condominium and built an orphanage in the Central American country.



Mike Klada (MCT)

R&B trio TLC show off the Grammys they won at the 1996 ceremony. Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes (center) was one-third of the popular group and was often called the "wild-child" of the three.

The Lopes family will be giving portions of the album sales to the Lisa Lopes Foundation and her orphanage, Hogar de Amor (House of Love), in Honduras.

Francis agrees that "her spirit would be happy with what is happening with her money."

"Eye Legacy" may leave some wondering just how bright this "Supernova" could have become, but for her loyal fans and those she has helped in her life, she, as well as her legacy, is still shining.

"A person hasn't really lived if their life can't be remembered by a single soul," Campbell said.

## Lost In Wonderland



BY EDÉN GODBEE  
Contributing Columnist

Ahhh...spring. The season famous for producing new things: new flowers, new music and new relationships. I'm not sure why this time of year produces new love, but I think it has something to do with the warm weather.

Ironically, yesterday while I was

stranded at Wal-Mart, I happened to be reading about relationships in my health book, "Health: The Basics," and how they are scientifically proven to be healthy. I must admit, while reading it, I had an inkling that maybe I should try a relationship out one of these days, for health purposes only.

As my reading progressed, the author explained how people in relationships have more keen eyesight; they sleep better and are overall in better spirits than people who aren't. All of these positive side effects are products of the endorphins that manifest themselves during the beginning stages of a relationship. I guess those old songs were telling the truth; love does take you higher, naturally.

Anyway, the book gave in-depth explanations for every type of relationship, along with their physical and emotional aspects. As I read, I wondered if this book was written to poke fun at people who weren't involved in so-called "successful relationships." I put the book down, rolled my eyes

But as I continued my reading, I came to a section where there was a poll about the sexual activity of college students. It read that college boys are more likely to either not be sexually active or to be sexually active with one partner as opposed to college women who are more likely to be sexually active with more than one partner. My first thought upon reading this was, this poll was obviously not taken at Howard but the longer I sat there, the harder I began thinking.

A couple of weeks ago, in a heated discussion about one of my previous articles, a friend and I shared our viewpoints on the issue of women being single and childless. During his accusatory rant, he spoke about how religion tells us that the family has to exist, how my ideology could potentially destroy an entire generation and other extreme notions that oddly enough made sense. After I walked away from that debate, I went to my girlfriends about it. They all had mixed emotions, some thought he had placed too much of a responsibility on my article and

others sided with him.

Either way, after that debate, that poll made even more sense to me. I noticed that in my conversations with males at Howard, the topic of marriage or companionship always seemed to reoccur. Whatever the orientation, the idea of a partnership seemed to be innate to most of them. I think these guys want relationships, maybe they're just scared. So girls, my advice to you is not to prejudge all Howard guys because they could be genuine men. And guys, my advice to you is not to be so gullible, don't believe what your homeboy says about Sally, because according to this poll, he's a hater. In the words of Jay-Z, "Men lie, women lie, numbers don't". Have a good day.

Edén Godbee is a junior broadcast journalism major from Atlanta, Ga.



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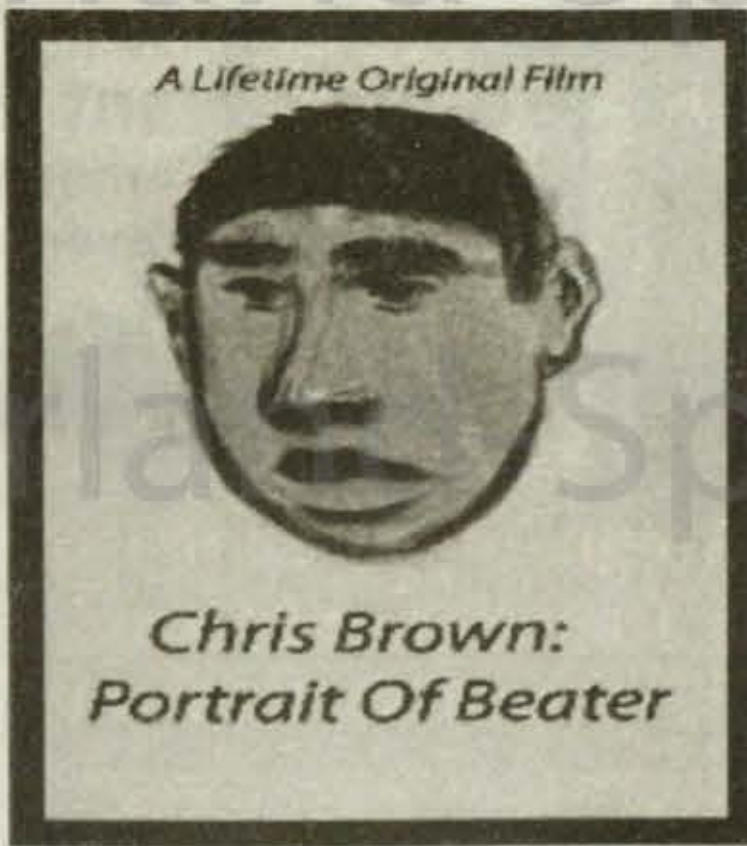
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# Chris vs. Rihanna: How Has The Media Influenced Conflict?

When Chris Brown and Rihanna failed to show at the 2009 Grammy Awards, the media instantly began to have a field day with the "alleged" facts and resources that began to fluff the stories that were published about the incident.

The poor reporting that has resulted from a physical altercation between Chris Brown and Rihanna is shameful; the media has an obligation to produce unbiased, reliable news. In this case, major news outlets relied on blog postings and information from unnamed sources.

On the red carpet, a field correspondent for E! Hollywood News was among the first to notify viewers of the incident between the R&B duo.

At that point, the story was breaking news and no real facts were known. Unfortunately, many media outlets like People.com, the Los Angeles Times and the Huffington Post continued to write stories based on unreliable resources and "alleged" occurrences.

An article on People.com stated, "Sources say that Rihanna (real name: Robin Fenty), 20, was the victim in the alleged assault which occurred around 12:30 a.m. on Sunday... Just hours after the incident, witnesses spotted Brown and Rihanna leaving the London Hotel together around 7:30 a.m.

on Sunday." The story never reveals who the anonymous sources or witnesses were that revealed this information.

The article ends with a quote from a third anonymous source who claimed that "they've been fighting a lot lately, lots of ups and downs. One second they're all

anybody can be Christopher Maurice Brown, as a source for reliable information? Not only is this an example of the type of feeding frenzy that news outlets exhibit when little is known about an incident but it is yet another case of bad reporting. Headlines from stories published by the Associate Press and the Huffington Post also

assumed that injuries sustained by the songstress were "horrific," something that has yet not been proven. In response to the inaccurate stories about the incident, Brown released a statement in which he expressed remorse and denied association with the Facebook page and wrongful accusations being made by blogs and major news outlets.

The public opinion surrounding the confrontation is due to the high profile nature of the two stars involved. In reality, domestic violence and abuse occurs in young relationships all the time and many people's stories go unheard.

Until journalists actually report facts from the police report or the victim and the accused, we do not have the right to judge Chris Brown or Rihanna.

Until then, the general public should filter their news sources so that they can receive the most accurate information available.

## Our View:

The media needs to stop citing blogs and Media Takeout and do its own reporting.

lovey-dovey and then they're fighting like crazy. They're both pretty stubborn."

This type of reporting is a disgrace and should have never been published.

The lede to a story published on the Los Angeles Times online read "Chris Brown may have made his first statement following his alleged beating of superstar girlfriend Rihanna." The author of the story said, according to the New York Post, Brown changed his Facebook status to "single" and wrote "You'll begin to see her true colors. Believe it!" What type of reputable news source would rely on a social networking site, where

## Perspective

### The Baggage: Can We Just Be?

Despite the 3:1 male to female ratio at Howard University, there are still some people who find themselves mentally, physically and emotionally involved with just one other person. However, the longevity of these seemingly rare relationships often depend on the previous "dating" experiences of the two people involved. I put dating in quotation marks to encapsulate all activity from chilling, to talking, to actually going out on real dates.

The emotional baggage from the preceding opposite-sex — and even same-sex interactions — can bring various degrees of mistrust and paranoia into a potentially positive union. Think about it. How often are you tempted to be suspicious of the weekend nights he doesn't spend with you, or do you ponder what it means that first day neither of you text, IM or call each other and finally who could be blowing up her phone during y o u

all's chill time around midnight or later?

Is it smart or debilitating to always be on guard for the worst? Sure, the jealousy routine is kind of funny and cute in the beginning, but as the emotions deepen and the arguments intensify, at what point can we just be?

Now, I am no relationship guru — anyone who knows me can wholeheartedly testify to that. However, I do occasionally become enlightened in the area of love. This epiphany, I have decided to share with The Hilltop family.

When you decide you have met a person worth your time, energy, love and heart, then you must absolutely leave all that bitter, negative and hurtful baggage behind before it becomes your anchor in a sea of sorrows and self-pity.

At this point, I'm going to address the women. Girl, I am not talking to you if you are attracted to a-holes. If that's what

you're into, please date with all the baggage you can carry. BUT, if you have found a nice young man who is smart, polite, spiritual and loving, I'm going to need you to WOMAN UP and leave all that extra-ness behind.

For the Howard men, please stop looking at women like we're out to get you. Not every woman has motives or a grand design to get you to wife her up.

A lot of us are open to just kicking it and hanging out before anything resembling a "relationship" talk comes up. Don't be quick to label us as crazy; if you stay cool, no windows will be busted, no cars scratched.

So next time, Hilltop family, you see your mate on the verge of trippin', take them to the side, hold their hand and ask, "can we just be...us?"

- Ashley C. Jones, junior pre-physical therapy major

## Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

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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.

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EDITED BY APRIL R. SILVER

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