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The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO. 97

PAGE 2

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON

Staff Writer

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Tuesday's Notebook

1924

CAMPUS

THE RECESSION HAS ALSO PLAGUED HOWARD UNIVERSITY. READ ABOUT HOW THE UNIVER-SITY'S ENDOWMENT HAS BEEN AFFECTED.

METRO

FIND OUT WHY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BAR ASSOCIATION IS FIGHTING A CONSUMER LIFE & STYLE

READ ABOUT THE EXPERIENCES OF STUDENTS DOING INTERNSHIPS AT DIFFERENT MAGA-ZINES AND WHAT THEY GAINED FROM THEM.

PAGE 7

Students watched the televised debate, which alred on WHUT Channel 4, as HUSA candidates discussed their platforms for this year's election.

WEB SITE.

Debate Shows off Platforms

The candidates for Howard University Student Association (HUSA) executive president and executive vice president got to

least WHUT Channel 4. The televised debate was sponsored by The Hilltop and General Elections Commission, and the filming and behind the scenes

take their platforms to the big screen, well at

work was done by Howard's own Spotlight. The candidates faced some hard hitting questions from moderators Vanessa Rozier, Hilltop editor-in-chief, and Marcus Ware,

General Elections Commissions chair. "I feel like Andrew Jones and Asia Smith won the debate because they exuded more action in what they were saying, not answering in theory, but based off whay they actually know," said Maliza Kalema, a junior political science major.

Both slates addressed the issue of the connection between HUSA and Graduate Student Council.

"I am disappointed with the Graduate

Student Council this year," said Andrew Jones, candidate for HUSA executive president.

Both the "Purpose" and "Bigger Picture" slates expressed how they have spoken with students and leaders of the graduate and professional schools.

However, when asked "Who precedes over the Graduate Student Council?" and "What does she want from HUSA?" neither of the slates named the Graduate (Arts and Sciences) Student Council president Nicole Cauthey.

Cauthey said graduate trustee candidate Jerome Hunt is the person who has spoken with her directly about the issues of the graduate population.

"I would like HUSA to first of all recognize that we exist and that we are a very vital and intregal party of this university," Cauthey said. "I would like the executive president and vice president to be more visible and meet with the graduate and professional council presidents to gauge out concerns and become true been efficient in the past. advocates for us."

getting the recycling plan in action at Howard University, as the fines are up to \$45,000 a year

for each year an effective sustainability plan is not in action.

Candidate for HUSA executive vice president Jerome Joseph said in order to establish an effective recycling plan, both students and administrators need to "be the change they want to see."

"We are not going to sit back and wait for the administration," Jones said. "We [students] are going to start a plan ourselves. There also has to be a bridge made between students and administration which is going to require dialogue."

Tension rose between the slates when the

ecutive presidential candidate, and Asia Smith, executive vice presidential candidate, about reintroducing the executive leadership branch to General Assembly. Jones said the difference between their

question was directed to the Andrew Jones, ex-

slate and the "Bigger Picture" slate was that they are not reintroducing ideas that have not

"Just because, on the surface, some Both slates also gave their solutions to things may look like they don't work doesn't mean that they won't," Smith said.

> See LISTEN, page 2

Listening Tour Hears Frustrations, Grievances From Students on Tuition

BY JESSICA LEWIS Staff Writer

During the second installment of the Listening Tour, students voiced concerns about past problems, such as maltreatment and miscommunication, as indicators as to why the tuition should not have been increased.

"We fail, at some capacity, to nurture our students while they are still here," said Cassandra Metu, third-year Doctor of Pharmacy student. "We feel mistreated, and it shows in how people give back."

Further expounding on the issue of low alumni donations, senior political science major Chad Williams-Bey asked what the university is currently doing to attempt to increase alumni "give-back."

According to Carole Borggren, Howard's budget officer, alumni contributions are already at a 15 to 20 percent level, which is a substantial improvement from previous years. In addition, other top, private universities generally have a 30 percent level. Williams-Bey continued his

questioning by asking why the university was content with 15 to 20 Borggren said the university

is not resting at its current levels, but merely using them as an example for the ways in which Howard is improv-

An open discussion was the setting of the Listening Tour held Monday evening in the College of Medicine auditorium. Fourteen students attended the public forum to openly engage Interim Provost Alvin Thornton, Borggren and vice president for Presidential Initiatives Donald Bell in an honest discussion about the apprehensions they had about the

One of the concerns that was discussed the most was the level of transparency with the administration and the manner by which information is disseminated.

new price for tuition.

Second-year law student Kirsten Bowden raised the concern that students are not necessarily upset that tuition is increasing, but the way in which the increase was communicated. She said the first time many students heard about an increase was through The Hilltop.

Her concern was just one of four that the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) presented to the administration as areas for improvement. The other three were the creation of need-based aid, improvement of student services and the assurance that resources are being alloeated appropriately.

Senior economics major Masake Kame asked HUSA president Nicholas Owen what processes he used to decide what was best for all students.

Owen explained that during the course of last semester, students were able to fill out grievances. He dealt with at least one of those four the Law School.

HUSA vice president Kellen

Moore said, "For what it is worth, he voted against the increase."

Thornton also said he has not heard one concern since the increase that he did not hear from the student leaders serving on TRAC.

To the array of negative comments being provoked by the increase, Thornton said, "Even though we talk about what we do not have, this is still the greatest university for African Americans."

Referring to the university's endowment, DeMario Greene, a senior political science major, asked Thornton, "How can you represent leadership for the global community if you're pissing in the wind with a little kid's fortune?"

Thornton said, as far as he could see, the university would never have the billions of Harvard, but he wasn't going to stop producing great leaders.

Kame asked if the university thinks that the new "asking price" for education will force low-income students out of Howard.

According to Thornton, 8.6 million additional dollars will be given to financial aid to create needbased aid.

"I sit here as someone who is very angry and frustrated, as someone who has been purged twice," Greene said. "How do you define someone who is in need?"

The determining factors are still being negotiated, but Thornton said they will mainly look at the FAF-SA applications. Students wishing to learn more can attend the third Lissaid the majority of the grievances tening Tour on Monday, March 2 at



Governor Timothy M. Kaine pushed for a smoking ban in Virginia which was passed

Virginia Smoking Ban Passes

BY KILLIAN LEWIS Contributing Writer

Virginia will soon enact a statewide smoking band prohibiting smoking in most restaurants and

The bill was passed by the House last week and is awaiting approval from the Senate.

Although Maryland and D.C. have already passed the non-smoking ban, Virginia legislators were hesitant to pass it, citing that the measures would force many small restaurant and bar owners out of busi-

Mike Dunn, a bartender at the King Street Blues in Crystal City, Va., thinks it was inevitable that Virginia would follow suit.

"In a perfect world, smoking would be up to the individual restaurant, but I think that the ban is nice," Dunn said. "Virginia being a tobacco state, I didn't think it would be here so quickly,"

The proposed ban is supposed to begin on Jan. 1, 2010. The start date is part of several amendments that were added on to the bill. The other amendments include:

- Allow smoking in any establishment during hours they do not admit minors.

- Allow smoking when an entire restaurant has been rented for a private reception if the owner is willing.

- Permit smoking in any room separated from the rest of the establishment by a door.

The American Lung Association, which supported the original bill, now has plans to oppose the amendments added to the bill.

Robert Kumpe, a frequent customer at the

> See BAN, page 5



Interim Provost Alvin Thornton and Budget Officer Carole Borggren addressed students' Issues at the second Listening Tour.

Aflac Executive Decides to Forego Bonus board agreed to accept their propos- on paying out bonuses in light of

BY CHRISTINA BURTON Business & Technology Editor

One more chief executive officer of a multi-billion dollar company decided to dock his bonus yesterday, an upward trend in the financial arena where companies are turning

to the government for money.

Affac Chairman and CEO Daniel P. Amos announced that he'll forego his 2008 bonus of \$2.8 million because, while the company was

performing well in 2008, the current stock market uncertainty may send their stocks tumbling on a whim.

Additionally, Aflac's president and chief financial officer, Kriss Cloninger III, is taking 35 percent off his bonus, lowering the entire check by \$477,000

Even though Mr. Amos and Mr. Cloninger were entitled to their full operating bonuses - and in 2008 Affac outperformed the S&P 500, the S&P Life Index and the Dow - the

als," said Robert B. Johnson Aflac Inc. board member and chairman of the Compensation Committee. "Wesupport their decision to voluntarily reduce their personal compensation as a demonstration of their commitment to our shareholders"

In 2008, Amos received a salary of \$1.3 million. Cloninger received a salary of \$857,700.

Lately, CEOs and other company executives decided to cut back financial concerns, a retarded stock market and growing worldwide economic hardships.

Jeffrey Immelt, CEO of General Electric, decided on Feb. 18, 2009 he would cut his bonus completely and turn down millions. in performance awards. Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch chief executives are among others passing up their bonuses as well.

2 CAMPUS - Soll Call Research 24, 2009

Endowment Funds Decrease, Recession to Blame

Howard's chief financial officer discusses the university's \$150 million endowment decrease

BY JESSICA LEWIS Staff Writer

Over the past year and a half, the Howard University endowment has decreased by approximately \$150 million as a result of the same plague that grips all of our pockets, the recession.

William Spriggs, chairman of the Economics department, said, "The turmoil in the stock market, it's the worst one-year loss since the Great Depression, has affected the endowments of all pension funds, university endowments and personal retirement savings. Howard is no exception to what has affected the na-

At its peak in September 2007, the endowment totaled approximately \$550 million making Howard the wealthiest Historically Black University and the

142^{ed} wealthiest university in the nation. Today, the university's endowment is approximately \$400 million. According to Sidney Evans, How-

ard's chief financial officer, "the endowment is a repository of gifts that the university has received for specific purposes to be expended sometime in the future." He said that it is a perpetual asset

for the university. Spriggs said, "Having the endowment allows the university to borrow because banks and other lenders know they can go after the liquid assets, [assets that have a value easy to convert or trade in

an open market] in the endowment." To ensure that the endowment does not run dangerously low, the university only spends approximately 5 percent or \$17 to \$20 million annually of the interest accumulated on the money in the endowment.

Most universities spend anywhere from 5 to 7 percent.

To explain the significant decrease in funds, Evans said, "Because it is a perpetual asset, if you do not invest it, it will disappear."

In 1996, with the arrival of former Howard President H. Patrick Swygert, the university's administration developed a total of 10 plans for how to invest its money. When Swygert took office, the endowment was approximately \$140 million. When he left in July 2008, it was \$550 million.

Between 1996 and 2006, the investment strategies made Howard "a lot of money," according to Evans.

Since the recent downturn in the market, Howard's endowment has lost 22 percent of its value.

"We are experiencing the worst financial market since the Great Depression," Evans said. "Anything you've invested in the last year has lost 40 to 50 percent of its value. Anything you invest in today is going south."

The endowment, however, only accounts for 3.4 percent of the univer-

As of November 2007, Evans said that the budget had a \$15 million deficit.

In general, the budget is approximately \$575,412,000. This money comes from five major sources of rev-



Howard University, once recognized as one of the wealthiest historically black universities, is one of the only federally chartered HBCUs, but is struggling with the loss of endowment funds due to lowered interest rates at the source of the funds.

enue: federal appropriations, 35.5 per- 3.4 percent. cent; tuition and fees, 31 percent; grants and contracts, 12 percent; bookstore/ housing, 10.8 percent; and endowment,

The major source of revenue, the appropriations, has not increased in the past seven years.

Evans said, "We have a situation at Howard where our total expenses exceed the money that is coming in. That is

why we have to raise tuition."

continued from FRONT, LISTEN

In addition to the debate, a variety of commercials graced the screen from the executive candidates of College of Arts and Sciences "Greenlight" slate to the "Trust the Blackman" by Roland Blackman, graduate trustee candidate.

"I couldn't decide who won because I thought it was poorly produced and I was unable to hear," said Baker Blanding, a senior marketing major. "I

did think that the commercials were creative and added some spice to the election season."

Maliza Kalema felt that it was more of student government watching student government in the Punchout, and a regular speakout might have been more effective for the student body as a whole.

The second televised debate for the undergraduate trustee candidates will be held on Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Punchout. Also, students who live on campus can watch it in their dorm rooms on WHUT channel 4.



Shivonne Foster - Campus Editor

Dance Brings 'Authenticity' to Pan-African Youth Summit

Moving rhythmically to a steady drum beat, members of the Nsaa Dance Ensemble, clad in gold and purple African garb, showed students their skills at Monday's session of the Pan-African Youth Summit.

Audience members were able to join Howard's only African dance ensemble and learn the dance moves of the Sorsonet dance, which is done in the Republic of Guinea. According to the Nsaa dancers, the Sorsonet is performed to ward off evil.

Senior sports medicine major Brendez Wineglass, this year's Nsaa chair, said none of the members are formally trained in African dance and the dancers voluntarily teach those who would like to learn.

Nsaa is an Adinkra word meaning "authenticity." Wineglass said the group, comprised of roughly 15 dancers, performs both on and off campus. They will be hosting their annual performance in the Armour J. Blackburn Center on April 26.

According to Wineglass, the goal of Nsaa is to "educate everybody about African culture, the African Diaspora and teach African dance."

- Compiled by Shivonne Foster, Campus Editor

Come to the Budget Meeting, Sunday at 6 p.m. in the West Towers.

Chief Speaks:

Howard Police Department Chief James Leroy delivers updates about campus emergency Blue Light system

BY JESSICA LEWIS Staff Writer

Chief Leroy K. James of the Howard University Police Department, in an effort to increase interaction between the department and the students, has sat down to answer real questions posed by students.

This week's question comes from Nicole Eaddy, a junior English major.

Eaddy: Has the new Blue Light Emergency System decreased the level of crime? In addition, has anybody been using them?

James: As many of you know by now, the university has embarked on a strategic plan to replace the old "Emergency Blue Light System" with an updated system. The Police Department, along with representatives from ISAS, PFM and the contractor, began the process of installing the new system in early November and officially lit up Phase 1 in the lower yard the third week of December.

This is a multi-phase project with nine more locations that have been mapped out to include multiple sites on the Main Campus, the Hospital as well as both the East and West Campus, which will total approximately 84 Blue Light units.

Since the installation of the first six units in the lower yard, the department has received several calls from students and staff, mainly inquiring about directions and other general information. The Police Department has also responded to several calls for assistance placed by users from the first six units.

While the crime level at Howard University is down considerably during the first month and a half into the Spring 2009 semester, when compared to a similar time period during the Fall 2008 Semester, the new Emergency Blue Light System may be just one factor that accounts for the decrease in crime incidents

I believe that our students, faculty and staff are more cautious and have taken a mumber of preventive measures to avoid becoming victimized. The Police Department is also a lot more pro-active with its patrolling and crime prevention strategies. And finally, we have received a lot of off-campus support from the Metropolitan Police Department with a highly visible uniformed presence in the neighborhoods adjacent to the university.

While I am convinced that it takes a comprehensive approach to reducing crime, the new "Emergency Blue Light System" is just one factor in our approach to helping reduce crime at HU and to keeping our students, faculty and staff safe.

The questions and answers do not reflect the views of The Hilltop. If you would like to have your question answered by the chief, include your question, name, classification and major to hilltopcampus(a)gmail.

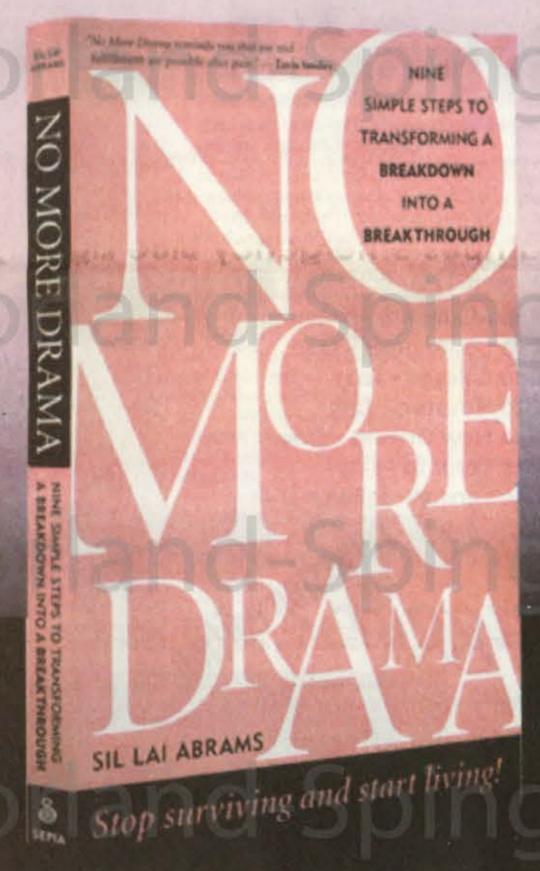


The Emergency Blue Light System is scheduled to receive further updates throughout the university. which will create a total of 84 units around campus. This is an effort to reduce crime on campus.

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Featuring Sil Lai Abrams
Author of No More Drama:

Nine Simple Steps to Transforming a Breakdown Into Breakthrough





Tuesday, Feburary 24th, 2009 6:00 PM

Blackburn Center Gallery Lounge

Light fare, ice cream and good conversation, guaranteed. First 15 attendees receive a free copy of "No More Drama"

Recession Yields Losses, Gains for Travel

BY CHRISTINA L. BURTON Business & Technology Editor

Orbitz Worldwide, Inc. reported quarterly losses across the board Monday, and the numbers are only saying it's doing bad all by itself.

The company brought in revenue of \$870 million overall in 2008, only I percent higher than the previous year's \$859 million, but suffered a 9 percent decrease in their fourth quarter revenue compared to the same quarter in 2007, citing the fluctuations in foreign currency as a major cause of the declination. To combat the recession and the decline in travel plans being made by people

around the globe, the company cut back on their end by halting on paying out bonuses and lowering their prices dramatically.

Priceline.com, Inc., on the other hand, reported fourth quarter revenues of \$406 million, up 21.3 percent in the fourth quarter in comparison to one year ago. Quarterly travel bookings for the Norwalk, Conn.-based company rose 22.9 percent compared to 2007's numbers. But Expedia. com, which owns Howire,com, experienced a gross bookings decline of 11 percent in the same quarter, pushing their revenue down 7 percent. Expedia did, however, gain more revenue in 2008 than in 2007.

This quarter, travelers spent \$2.2 billion booking travel and the like on Orbitz.com, which includes flights, hotels, car rentals, packaged deals and cruises. The company only made \$180 million by the end of the last quarter, down from \$197 million in the same quarter last year.

"During the fourth quarter, global economic softness significantly impacted our performance and created more uncertainty for the entire travel industry," said Barney Harford, president and

CEO of Orbitz Worldwide. "In response to this softness, we took immediate steps in both November and January to reduce costs, and as a result, we believe Orbitz Worldwide is better positioned to manage through this challenging environment."

How Priceline managed to do well this quarter, president and Chief Executive Officer Jeffery H. Boyd said, was based on the company's "value brand and low prices appealed to cost-conscious consumers," and the Name Your Own Price® option is a strong selling point, too.

"Worldwide recessionary condi-

tions have resulted in lower overall travel demand," Boyd said, "and we have seen hotels significantly reduce their average daily rates in response to declining hotel occupancy rates."

A total of \$81 million was made from Orbitz air bookings in 2007, but due to the world's financial problems, that number slid drastically to \$67 million in fourth quarter revenue for 2008. Gross bookings for Orbitz went down 8 percent, compared with the fourth quarter of 2007 with international bookings taking the steepest booking decline by 18 percent and bringing in \$352 million to \$289 million, a 39 percent drop in revenue for the fourth quarter. This, according to Orbitz, is because of Europe's soft economic condition.

In November 2008 and this past January, Orbitz cut jobs and reduced outside contractors, saying, "Management believes that these measures will better position the company to face the challenging economic prospects for the global travel industry."

"The story of 2008 - and 2009 for that matter - is clearly the global recession and its impact on nearly every sector of our economy," said Barry Diller, Expedia, Inc.'s chairman and senior ex-



By the Way ...

FAFSA and the Stimulus Plan Go Hand-in-Hand

BY LINSEY ISAACS Asst. Campus Editor

With tuition increases being implemented at universities nationwide and a depression-scare, the recent sign of the stimulus plan gives some hope for struggling college students and individuals thinking about going back to attain their degree. Although the stimulus plan has its benefits, though, we can't forget about our personal responsibilities in order for the benefits to play out well.

Filing the FAFSA should be first priority for students not only because we are in a recession, but because of the new stipulations created for it thanks to the recently passed stimulus package. As you can see with the proposals below, President Barack Obama did not forget to leave higher education out.

As per the stimulus plan, worth \$789 billion, Pell grants will be increased from \$4,731 to \$5,350 in July. The grant, which is normally issued to low-income students, will continue to rise to \$5,550 during the 2010-11 school years.

The stimulus plan will also add \$200 million to the work-study budget, to help students pay for tuition. With a current budget of merely \$1.1 billion, tens of thousands of additional students will have a chance to earn money on their respective

And with respect to middleand upper-class students, it additionally allows funds from 529 college-savings plans to be used for computers, software and Internet service. The savings plan typically allowed the funding to go toward tuition, room and board and books only.

More money for students sounds great, right?

This week, someone brought up a good point about the accountability of students. Granted, we often encounter harsh attitudes and a not-so-helping hand when handling business in the "A" building and the tuition rise seems more like a major inflation rate, but sometimes we just don't have reason to complain - not if our financial aid is done incorrectly or not completed at all.

As students of higher education, we must be responsible for the business in our daily lives, and that includes filling out a new FAFSA form as soon as the new year rolls in. I can't tell you how many students have yet to log on to the government Web site and take 10-15 minutes out of their time to somewhat guarantee that they're financially covered for the following year. The deadline may be June 30, but, not to sound so cliché: The early bird gets the worm.

To take some blame off the students, however, one of the main reasons for us not filling out our FAFSA forms includes a lack of knowledge to understand the five-page material and a fear of beginning the package. Although the form contains about 127 questions, it is necessary for students of all socioeconomic backgrounds to even be considered for some scholarships. In the past, students have missed out on millions of dollars in grants due to many need-based programs requiring missing FAFSA information.

This complication will hopefully be eradicated with President Obama's new proposal to ease the process. Instead of filing a separate form, tax forms are projected to have a simple box checked when they are filed - in essence, the two forms are exactly the same. The box will allow families' tax information to be shared for educational purposes and to determine the eligibility of students seeking aid.

Hopefully, an easier system to fill out FAFSA will prompt more students to grab hold of the money for college that rightfully belongs to them. At the end of the day, the stimulus plan means nothing if students aren't putting in the work to take advantage of its gifts.

Web tripping

The number of people who book their tickets online is expected to increase 15.5 percent over the next five years.

Top travel sites, Dec. 2008

Total unique visitors, in millions

Expedia Orbitz Travel Ad Network Southwest Airlines

Travelocity 7.2

Yahoo Travel

Travelers

Who book online Who look online

but book elsewhere

80 million Projected 2013: 28.1 million

Source: ComBoure Media Metria, Forrester Research Graphic: Chicago Tribune

On the Low-Low...*

Hotwire.com

DC to Miami - \$228 DC to Los Angeles - \$239 DC to Chicago -\$196 DC to Houston - \$219 DC to New Orleans - \$155 DC to Toronto - \$302 DC to Cancun - \$608

Priceline.com

DC to Miami - \$289 DC to Los Angeles - \$219 DC to Chicago - \$183 DC to Houston - \$208 DC to New Orleans - \$157 DC to Toronto - \$308 DC to Cancun - \$505

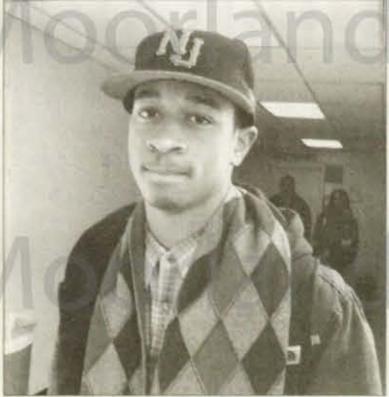
Orbitz.com

DC to Miami - \$235 DC to Los Angeles - \$226 DC to Chicago - \$203 DC to Houston - \$215 DC to New Orleans - \$164 DC to Toronto - \$315 DC to Cancun - \$584

*lowest prices for travel dates Saturday, March 14, 2009 to Saturday, March 21, 2009

The U.S. is in a recession, but how are Howard students and faculty affected?

Financial Swagger With the jobless rate at a 16-year high, people are getting very money-conscious.



Spencer Whitney soph. print Journalism On spending: "The majority of my money right now, if it isn't going to books, is going to food because sometimes the café doesn't work out." With saving, "I'm saving money by not spending and cutting back on how much I spend. I'm just cutting down on unnecessary spending." Dealing With Recession: "The recession is affecting pretty much everyone I know because a lot of people have to cut back on things they normally buy. Personally, I feel like it's going to be a lot harder on me to find a job in the summertime because a lot of the entry-level jobs won't be there."



Craig Herndon multimedia professor On spending: "I have a son in college, a mortgage, dance class for my middle child and groceries. I also pay for many communications including text messages, data services for my phone, cable television, cell phones and two house phone lines." And on saving, says, "We aren't saving anything right now. I invested most of my money in a unsuccessful business venture so now I am changing my life by teaching." Dealing With Recession: "I am unable to save. Society hasn't been saving for things either. There are many maintenance things around my house that would normally be done, but I don't have any loose money."



Britney Moses junior psychology On spending: "I don't have money to spend." On saving, "I don't have money to save either." Dealing With Recession: "The recession is not really affecting me being that I was broke before it started. "

> - Photos and commentary by Simone Berry, Contributing Writer



The Anti-Crime Act revision came about because of an increase in violence in the District.

Anti-Crime Bill Intensifies Gun Restrictions, Laws

BY COLLEEN CHALLENGER Contributing Writer

Earlier this month, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty proposed the reintroduction of the Omnibus Anti-Crime Amendment Act to the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary in an attempt to protect the more than 600,000 residents in the District.

"We're reintroducing this legislation to send a clear message the District will use all tools at its disposal to fight crime in our city," Fenty said.

The original Anti-Crime Act was released October of last year and has since been revised.

The 56-page amendment, compared to last year's 36-pager, is focused on limiting the amount of gang activity as well as placing intense restrictions on gun possession for gun offenders and protecting the confidentiality of juvenilegang members.

The Anti-Crime Act comes in response to the increase of homicides, gang violence and gun possession in the District. According to the 2008 Crime Statistics conducted by the Metropolitan Police Department, 2,534 firearms were retrieved — a significant increase from 2007. New stipulations will produce a

In 2008, 52 crimes were reported for the Howard University area, a four percent increase from 2007, according to D.C. Police Crime Mapping. Of those 52 crimes, five were robberies with a gun.

Senior accounting major Dominique Nettles recalled the multiple times she has heard gun shots while living in the District.

the District.

"Last year, in the middle of the night, I would hear gun shots around the Towers and where I live now," Nettles, "a couple of blocks away from campus."

The act also includes preventative methods to discourage those at-risk youth from becoming involved in gang activities by providing them programs that would guide them in making positive choices.

"Protecting the lives of District residents and youth is a top priority," Fenty said.

Metropolitan Police Department chief Cathy L. Lanier, explained the act further by saying, "The purpose of this bill is twofold — to keep repeat violent offenders off our streets and save lives. It is well known that an overwhelming majority of the homicides that are committed are committed by those who've been arrested before."

The Anti-Crime Act demonstrates the efforts of the Fenty administration to making the District a safer place for its residents and visitors.

"I think it is very important since... there is a lot of gun violence [in the District]," said Nettles, "it is a step to getting guns off the street."

Some highlights of the act include: helping juveniles reintegrate into the community, enhancing the courts authority to detain gun offenders before their trail, revisions to the stalking law by making it consistent with legislation written by the National Center for Victims of Grime and expanding the list of DNA samples from violent and serious felonies to all felonies.

A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 18 at the John A. Wilson Building. It will be the first of two hearings.

The first hearing will deal with the contents of the Act, and the second will address concerns about the Act from the first hearing.

D.C. Bar Association To Fight Web Site

BY MARK CHENOWETH
The Washington Times

Lawyers often sue to protect consumers. In Washington — the lawyer capital of the nation — lawyers are threatening legal action to prevent consumers from getting a full measure of information about their services.

The District of Columbia Bar Association has told the consumer service Web site Avvo.com to stop using information from the bar's own Web site — or face legal action. The Avvo site provides consumer information about lawyers, including their fields of expertise and whether they have been disciplined by a court or bar association.

Joshua King, an Avvo vice president, said the company has had no problems gathering information from other bar associations across the country—from New York and Boston to Austin, Texas—since it started its site in 2007.

But in Washington, which has more lawyers per capita than anywhere else in

states, Avvo is having a tough time.

Con-

sumer advocate Steve Pociask is appalled. "It's not practical for people

for people who defend free speech to turn around and say, 'As long

as it doesn't affect my members," Pociask, president of the Washington-based American Consumer Institute, said Monday. "It sounds like a boys club."

King calls the D.C. bar's demand an insult to average Americans.

"Attorney licensing data is a matter of public record," he said. The bar "wants to protect the interests of the District of Columbia Bar and its members. Note the absence of any interest in protecting the public."

He said the problems started after the D.C. bar realized that the company was taking lawyer-licensing information from the bar's site.

King said the bar then posted a "terms of use" statement and blocked Avvo's access to the site.

He said the Seattle-based Avvo continued downloading from the bar's site to update information, at least until receiving a "cease and desist" letter Jan. 27 from Timothy K. Webster, a lawyer with the K Street firm Sidley Austin LLP.

The bar's primary objections are that Avvo failed to ask for permission to use the information and that it is soliciting members, according to the letter.

"They made a public Web site," Pociask said. "It's the World Wide Web."

The letter told Avvo to stop taking information from the site and demanded that the company "immediately remove improperly acquired information."

The bar says Avvo violated the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act — an anti-hacking law bolstered by the USA Patriot Act.

The D.C. bar would not comment and referred to the Jan. 27 letter.

King said it would be "easy enough" to find when the restricted-use clause was posted based on the bar's internal records. He called the accusation that Avvo violated the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act "far reaching" because the law applies only to the federal government.

King said the information his company uses could be acquired through the federal

"It's not practical for people who

defend free speech to turn around and

say, As long as it doesn't affect my

members."

Freedom of Information Act. "It is

ironic that it has been less than a week after Obama issued his memorandum to the federal

agencies

a b o u t transparency in government and expansively in-

Janet Moss, executive director of the Maryland State Bar Association's Client Protection Fund, said her group gave Avvo a disk with the names and addresses of lawyers practicing in the state, along with their dates of admission to the bar.

terpreting the ... act," he said.

The Oregon State Bar posts on its Web site whether a member has been prosecuted for ethical misconduct and found guilty, spokeswoman Kateri Walsh said.

"It is a public record [but] has to be something they were found guilty for," she said.

King said Avvo profiles include "disciplinary" actions such as bar sanctions, "These are punishments ... that impact an attorney's ability to practice law," he said.

Metro Briefs

Update: Marion Barry's Health

Council member Marion Barry's kidney transplant surgery was successful. He received the transplant at Howard University Hospital on Friday, Feb. 20. Barry had cited health problems and being placed on dialysis as reasons for his failure to file his taxes.

Years of diabetes and hypertension might have led to the kidney issues. He plans on returning to his duties as Ward 8 council representative in no more than two weeks. The 72-year-old councilman was facing possible jail time for his tax evasion. Instead, he was placed on probation and has since fulfilled his tax duties.

UMD Works to Lower Textbook Prices

The University of Maryland's Board of Regents approved a new policy aimed to provide affordable textbooks for students. One phase of the policy will require professors to post their required books online by a certain deadline.

That way, students are able to search elsewhere for cheaper prices. Also, professors will be strongly advised to utilize the same editions and be cautious about requiring text-book supplements such as CDs and workbooks. These extra materials designed by publishing companies to enhance student's learning are seldom utilized. The policy will seek to create rental programs and make some books available in libraries.

Metro Wants to Get In Touch With You Thru Facebook

The Washington Metro is now on Facebook. Recently, D.C.'s Metrorail agency opened a page on the popular social networking site after announcing a drastic \$21 million budget cut.

The agency decided to create its very own Facebook page with the hopes of creating a forum where customers could discuss the severe budget cut and other Metrorail issues, in addition to proposing ways to improve service. The page will also display bus and rail delays.

Woodworkers Use Their Crafts to Benefit Wounded Soldiers

Local woodworkers are playing a pivotal role in helping other wood craftsmen across America volunteer to assist injured soldiers. C.A. Savory, a Fairfax County native and master wood craftsman, fashions customized canes for war veterans and delivers them to Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Each cane is topped with a carved eagle and embossed with a name, nickname, important date or some other mark of sentimental value.

Hank Cloutier, a retired Air Force veteran himself, compiles requests from injured veterans and distributes them to volunteer woodworkers across the country. Cloutier also teaches wood carving, a new hobby many soldiers, especially those anticipating a long recovery time, are very receptive to.

- Compiled by Leah Kimble, Contributing Writer & Genet Lakete, Staff Writer

Do you like the District? Come grab a Metro story!

Virginia to Join D.C., Maryland in Statewide Smoking Ban



The smoking ban is set to take effect Jan. 1, 2010 in Virginia. The ban will prohibit smoking in most public places, including restaurants and bars.

continued from FRONT, BAN

King Street Blues, is glad to see the bill passed because he doesn't like smoke around when he eats. Although Kumpe does not like smelling smoke when he is eating, he occasionally comes to the bar at King Street Blues to smoke a cigar.

"Even when I come in to smoke an occasional cigar, I ask the person next to me if it is okay if I light up. If someone is already eating, I won't light up until they are done."

Kumpe understands the bill and the possible decline in sales it will bring to Virginia restaurants and bars so he would like to see some of the money from the stimulus plan given to establishments so they can make the necessary modifications that they need to comply by the bill.

Virginia resident Jannie

Robinson is in favor of the Virginia ban.

"I'm not a smoker and I think it is a great bill. I hate to think that I would get cancer as a result of second-hand smoke," said Robinson.

Many non-smokers agree that where the primary focus is to eat they don't want to smell smoke. For smoker Tim Hamlette, the Virginia smoking ban is taking away residents' civil liberties.

"I knew this was coming, but I don't necessarily agree with it. I think that smokers have the right to smoke while they are out."

No matter what either side is debating, the long-standing argument about the Virginia smoking ban is finally

"There is no place left to run," said Dunn.

Interested in learning more about the culture rich city you go to school in? Come to a budget meeting and pick up a story from the metro section editor.

Sunday @ 6 p.m. in the West Towers

A CALL TO CONTRIBUTE TO

Howard University's Self-Study Report!!



Moorland-Spingarn Research Cen An Opportunity for Faculty, Staff and Students to Participate in Howard University's Renewal! Moorland-Spingarn Research Cen

HOWARD UNIVERSITY'S
REAFFIRMATION FOR REACCREDITATION

BY THE
ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Moorland Spingann Research Cen Wednesday, February 25, 2009 Blackburn Center Ballroom

12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

• For more information, contact the Self-Study Office at (202) 238-2495 or UWSelf-study@howard.edu

Moorland-Spingarn Reference



TRUE LIFE: I Want an 'A'

BY ALEESA MANN Life & Style Editor

The other day, my professor handed me an article about a survey titled "Self-Entitled College Students: Contributions of Personality, Parenting and Motivational Factors."

Ironically, this is the same professor who gets bombarded at the end of the semester with e-mails, phone calls and nasty tirades from students who, at the last minute, decide to become vigilant about their

Apparently, this isn't rare. In fact, the study which was published in "The Journal of Youth and Adolescence" (April 2008), says, "anecdotal evidence suggests an increase in entitled attitudes and behaviors of youth in school and col-

In what is dubbed "academic entitlement," students have expectations of high grades for modest effort and demanding attitudes toward teachers." In other words, too many people think they can debo a passing grade out of their professors.

Hmm, now this probably explains why last year, my freshman seminar class was witness to a very disgruntled student who called the professor a very unfavorable word, because she wouldn't let him turn in a late assignment. He was kicked out of the class.

This is also probably why I thought I could cry my way to an "A" in my PE elective. Didn't

According to the study, there has been a rise in the number of "students who beleaguer their professors for higher grades, forecast dire personal outcomes if they do not get the grades they feel they deserve (or want) and expect professors and teaching assistants to go to exceptional lengths to accommodate their needs and preferences."

So this one's for you Mr. I'll die, just DIE! If I don't pass this class, my parents will kill me! And you too, Ms. I'll do anything, I'll do every assignment backwards and forwards, whatever it takes. But let me not point the finger, I'm guilty too. So, just who do we think

The study says this sense of entitlement is most often found in the maladjusted, people with poor work ethics, persons with an exaggerated sense of self and people who just don't care how their behavior affects others.

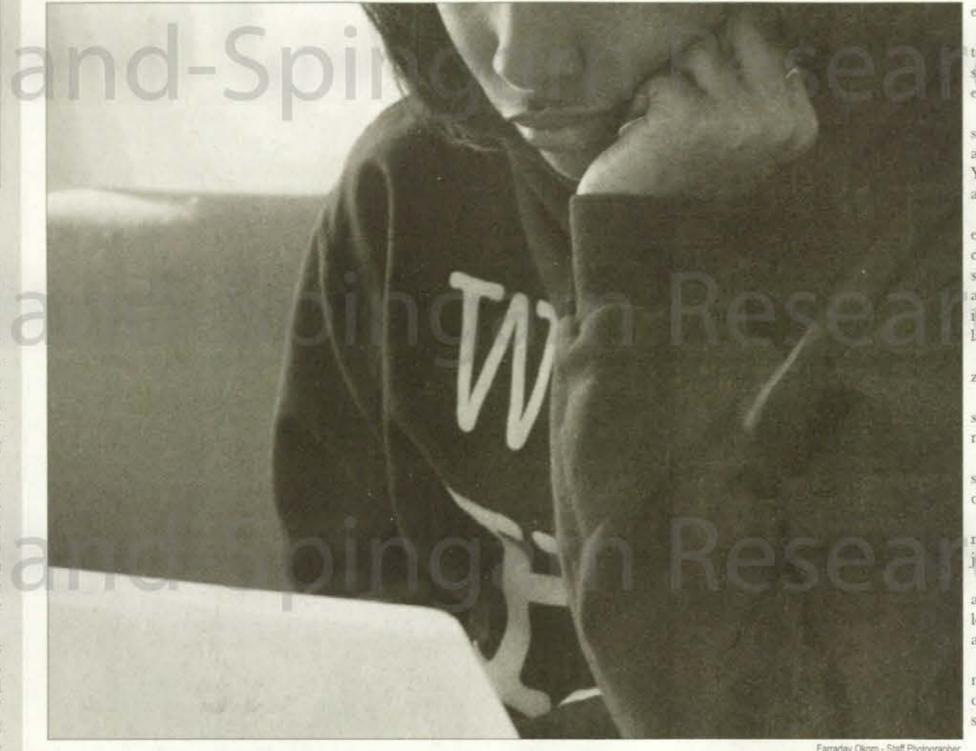
Academic entitlement can also be a coping mechanism for students who experience a decline in grades.

The study goes on to find that some professors were concerned about how students would evaluate their course you know, those anonymous course evaluations that come around at the end of every semester and would "take steps to be liked and avoid actions that might lower their ratings." Interesting indeed.

So, as you go about your school year and then realize you have two weeks to turn your "D" into a "B," think twice before you send that nasty e-mail, start banging down doors or have your parents call the dean.

Take a deep breath, count to four and promise to do every extra assignment ever known to mankind.

Experience More Valuable Than Money for Summer Interns



Internships over the summer may be unpaid, but experience gained by students participating in these internships goes a long way for the future.

BY JENERRA C. ALBERT Staff Writer

Students looking to land internships with some of the top names in the magazine industry should take advantage of the resources and opportunities available.

Whether supply chain management or print journalism, there are ways for a student to land themselves right into the offices of a magazine company as an intern. However, this may require one to go without pay.

Career Development Coordinator Carol Dudley of the John H. Johnson School of Communications explained that most magazine internships will go unpaid and require duties that may not be glamorous but will be time well spent.

something that you feel is beneath you or a waste of time ... but it's about having the right attitude," said Dudley.

Aisha Johnson, a sophomore print journalism major, explained that although her internship also went unpaid, she found it to be very helpful.

"Some days, I'd go and run errands for them or work on special projects for the magazine ... it was an overall learning experience," Johnson said.

Although Johnson found herself running errands, a typical day for Johnson at her internship with TRACE Magazine was a bit more extensive than the average student intern can expect.

"I did a lot of writing," she said. "I'd start off the first half of the day

"Sometimes you may be asked to do searching the Internet for interesting stories or events that would be good for their blog ... once they were approved, I could actually start writing, and I'd usually have one to three stories published a day."

> Dudley said that students will be lucky to actually get the chance to write something that gets published.

And being a hard worker who understands the importance of networking during the internship is necessary considering they won't actually get the chance to publish articles.

Starting at the bottom has been routine for most students looking to break into the magazine industry.

Kendra Desrosiers, a junior print journalism major, said that the basic duties of her internship with Cosmopolitan included intense footwork in New York City.

Although, she never got the chance to actually write or publish any articles. she received lots of experience and knowledge when it came to research.

Her day-to-day duties consisted of scientific research, verifying data and facts as well as surveying the people of New York City to include in the Cosmopolitan articles.

"Cosmopolitan was a good learning experience in research and coming up with different tactics to get people to respond," said Desrosiers. "I had to think on my feet and become a people person. People think it's only a gossip magazine on love and relationships, but it's very scientific."

Attempting to intern with a magazine is incredibly competitive.

Dudley said that if one is looking to start interning in the summer, a student needs to have started in October.

To intern with a magazine, Dudley stressed that aspiring interns have an understanding of the industry.

"Magazines may seem fun, but most editors are very serious about their job," Dudley said.

Having the right attitude, dressing appropriately, working harmoniously and learning to network are important in such a competitive industry.

Johnson suggested applying to as many positions as possible, to increase the chances of being selected for an intern-

"Don't be too picky because some of the more "eclectic" magazines may give you more experience," she said.

For those students who may not necessarily be majoring in journalism, there are resources to take advantage of.

Desrosiers, editor-in-chief of 25 Magazine, said to get magazine experience while on campus because most candidates with competitive applications are on the staff of their campus magazine,

Additionally, Dudley suggested having regional experience, learning how to fact-check as well as complete intense research and having a general knowledge of AP Style is helpful for those who are not majoring in journalism.

"I got a lot of experience. Unlike most internships, I got to actually write and go out to events and meet people," said Johnson. "It may not have been a flashy name, but I can say that I got to actually perfect my craft rather than bring in the mail."

Three Tips To Landing A Magazine Internship

Career Development Coordinator, Carol Dudley of John H. Johnson School of Communications describes useful methods to go about getting an internship with a magazine.

1. You will need some type of daily newspaper clips. They are looking for an experienced and skilled writer, and they will need something to verify that with. Dudley suggests even attempting to write a few days out of the week with the District Chronicles or various other publications to gain a background. Clips need to be orderly and neat, and sources need to be clear.

2. Find your niche. There are bigger issues than music and entertainment. You should have an idea or specific area of interest that you would like to write for, but you may have to start elsewhere and work your way up. "Students should be knowledgeable on at least five current events in the categories of health, education, politics and economics, when going in search or on an interview for a magazine internship," Dudley said.

3. Find the best sources to search for an internship. Magazine Publishers of America (MPA) internship program and American Society of Magazine Editors (ASME) internship program are among the best places to search for internships. Edon Campus is another great place for students to search for internships within the magazine industry.

- compiled by Jenerra C. Albert, Staff writer

Anthony Hamilton Keeps It 'Cool' With Third Album

BY ALEESA MANN Life & Style Editor

Anthony Hamilton is happy and he wants you to know it.

On "Cool" his first single from his third studio album, 'The Point of It All,' Hamilton sings in earnest, "We don't have to worry about no money, to have us a real good time."

But his optimism doesn't stop there. Throughout the album, Hamilton is happily falling in love and having fungiving his audience who once listened to him lament heartbreak on his hit-single "Charlene," an abrupt departure from the melancholy crooner he once was on his first studio album 'Comin' from

Where I'm From' (2003). And that's exactly his point, he just

wants everyone to feel good. "Times are already hard; nobody needs another slow song right now," said Hamilton. "It's time to boogie."

For his new album, the Charlotte, N.C. native takes the same soulful flow and southern drawl that earned him seven Grammy nominations and laces 'The Point of It All' with finger snapping, feel-good music.

"Songs like 'The Day We Met." up-tempo songs that are radio friendly, I don't think people thought that I could do it, and [this album] will give them a chance to see that side," he said.

Unlike some artists who seem to flip-flop through the music industry recreating themselves with every album, Hamilton has maintained his down-toearth, homegrown image over the span of his 15-year career.

As a husband and father of three, Hamilton oftentimes takes his family on the road when he tours.

"I pretty much try to keep them close by," said Hamilton. "I don't go more than seven days or two weeks at the most without seeing them."

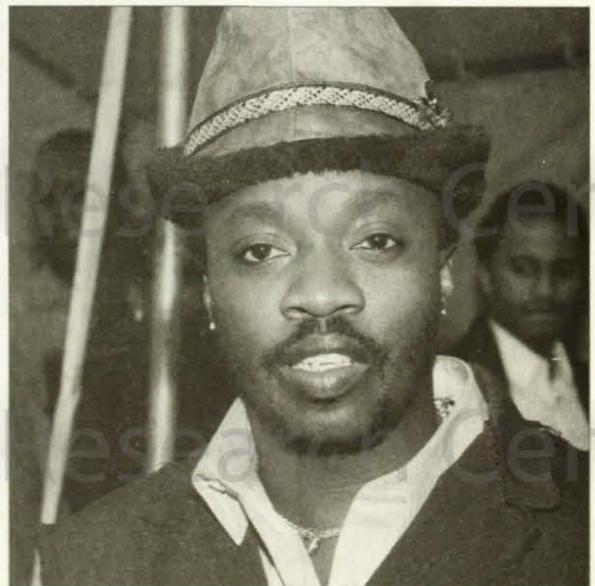
He recalled that his youngest son helped sell T-shirts during his last tour. "He wants to do a T-shirt line so

what better way to learn how to sell Tshirts than to sell T-shirts," he joked. For Hamilton, family is a major

influence in his music and he said he_

himself and his family. "I don't want to put out a song that offends nobody. My grandmother will come out of her grave and whoop me to

works hard to make music that represents



Seven-time Grammy nominee Anthony Hamilton has released his third album, "Point of It All" which features a new sound for the artist.

death if I did anything wrong, and I have wants to make sure everyone's having a a lot of pastors that look up to what I'm doing musically."

Easily, Hamilton comes off as

R&B's well-meaning, nice guy who just

good time.

In one word he describes his music as "alright" because, "it's good for everybody."



Charles Metze III - Cartoonist

Holder's Impression of Race in The United States Holds True

Bloggers, political pundits and much of the general public were aroused by the comment made by America's first black attorney general, Eric Holder, last Wednesday. Holder told the Department of Justice, "though

this nation has proudly thought of itself as an ethnic melting pot, in things racial, we have always been and we - I too many ways - essentially, a nation of cow-

The attorney general went on to say that people choose not to discuss racial matters

because "certain subjects are offlimits and to explore them risks, at best, embarrassment and, at worst, the questioning of one's charac-

Critics of Holder's concept of race in America considered his remarks to be offensive to the recent election of President Obama. But, Holder is right. Race has become a taboo topic of discussion because those who feel they are subject to the most criticism are afraid to acknowledge their soci-

"Our attorney general is black; both major parties are led by black men; the president is black," Stephan Tawney wrote on the American Pundit blog. "Last month, the nation officially

Our View:

believe continue to be in The issues of race and racism still exist, and they must be acknowledged.

> honored Martin Luther King Jr. as it does every year, and Holder is speaking during Black History month. And yet, we're apparently a 'nation of cowards' on race."

Although black men are finally being given political power in the United States, that does not mean that the millions of other blacks and minorities living in America are being treated equally. Tawney's response, like the response of many other white conservatives, avoids the depth of

true discussion on race relations in modern America.

Holder called for honesty and a revitalization of the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department. As a society, we have learned to deal with race by act-

> ing as if it does not exist. Yet, when an innocent man is killed by police or sentenced to life in prison for a crime he did not commit, we simply reply that our president is black.

> The provocative statement did not ignite controversy because it was offensive. It ignited controversy because it was true, and there are people who are afraid to

talk about race because they do not want to deal with it. Having black politicians will not matter to the black community unless they are willing to acknowledge problems and fight for civil rights.

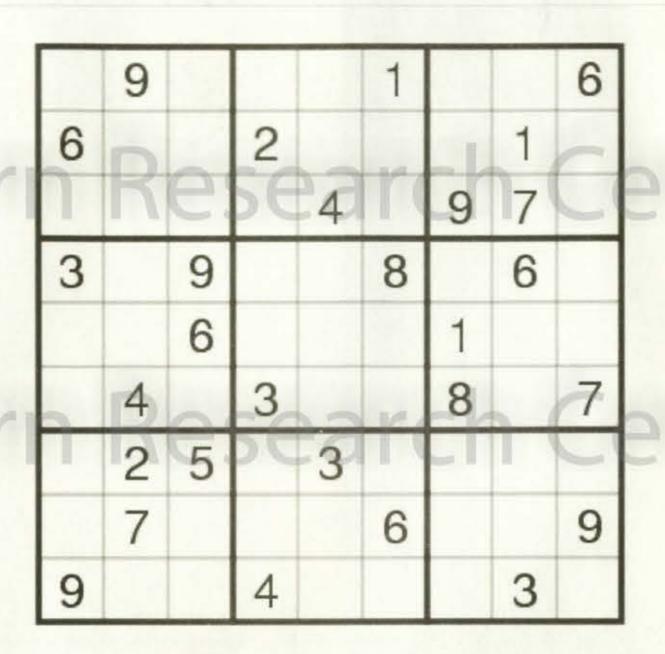
Blacks must acknowledge whites. Whites must acknowledge Hispanics. Hispanics must acknowledge Asians and any other race of people that exists within America.

Until then, there will be no progress.

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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



Do you want to write for The Hilltop?

Come to our next budget meeting! Sunday @ 6 p.m. in the West Towers

CORRECTION: In the Jan. 15, 2009 article, titled "Fenty Extends Hours for Celebration," Makan Shirafkan, the business advisor and manager at Love and Park nightclubs, was incorrectly referred to as the General Council.

Perspective

Speak Up for Howard

Since the tuition increase was announced, people have demanded more transparency, inclusion and accountability on the part of the administration. Well, Howardites, this week you will have several opportunities to experience just that. Today will mark the last main campus stop on the listening tour concerning the tuition increase; the last one is at the law school next week.

In the past, the administration and the Board has made decisions to increase tuition and has not discussed it with the Howard community at large. This time, there have been four opportunities to speak with students about the increase. In addition, before the increase was approved by the Board of Trustees, there was a dialogue with students representing a cross section of the university.

The majority opinion was that the increase was needed to address our deficit and infrastructure concerns; however, there needed to be substantial need-based aid for students who could not afford the increase and more transparency concerning the university budget. All areas were agreed to in the proposal that were approved by the administration and the Board of Trustees.

The listening tours are the first push towards transparency. However, we need to prove that we want a place at the table. The invitation is open for transparency, but we need students to come. The last listening tour stop had roughly 25 students. The increase will affect everyone who will be here next year. More students should come, be informed and let their voices be heard. It will be held in the College of Medicine Auditorium from 7 to

Another opportunity to get involved is to come to the town hall meeting addressing the university's accreditation. It will discuss the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Affirmation of Accreditation Self Study report. It is also available online for the Howard community to read and comment on. The URL is http:// www.gs.howard.edu/middle_

Sign in the same way you do in the I-lab. The town hall will explain the accreditation process for the university and will allow students, faculty, staff and administration to voice their feedback. The Self Study report will also show you how complex and comprehensive the university is. It will 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Blackburn Ballroom. Lunch will be provided. You can also be involved through the Students First Camserve as the team leader coordinator and intern. We are still looking for volunteers. If you are interested please send an e-mail to HUStudentsFirst@gmail.com.

The Students First Campaign will look at eight key areas across the university including residence life, student life & activities, cashiers, financial services, academic advising, enrollment management and financial aid and records. This is an awesome opportunity to provide feedback concerning the university and to provide solutions to make the university better.

If this is not enough, you can come out tonight to Project Connect 2009, a program that brings alumni to campus to talk with students about life post How-

It will start at 6 p.m. in the Blackburn gallery lounge and will feature Chris Cathcart, a former HUSA president who owns several of his own businesses; Keri Archer, a producer for Discovery TV and Donald Temple, Esq., a founder of Ubiquity, Inc. who is also an attorney. This event is cosponsored be available this Wednesday from by the Howard University Alumni Association and the Howard University Pre-Alumni Association. So get involved, get educated and have your voice heard!

- Victoria Kirby, undergraduate trustee

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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> Washington, DC 20001 (202) 806-4724 (Editorial) (202) 806-4749 (Business) hilltopeic@gmail.com hilltopbusiness@gmail.com

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.

Do you have an opinion about something?

paign, President Ribeau's first

presidential initiative. I currently

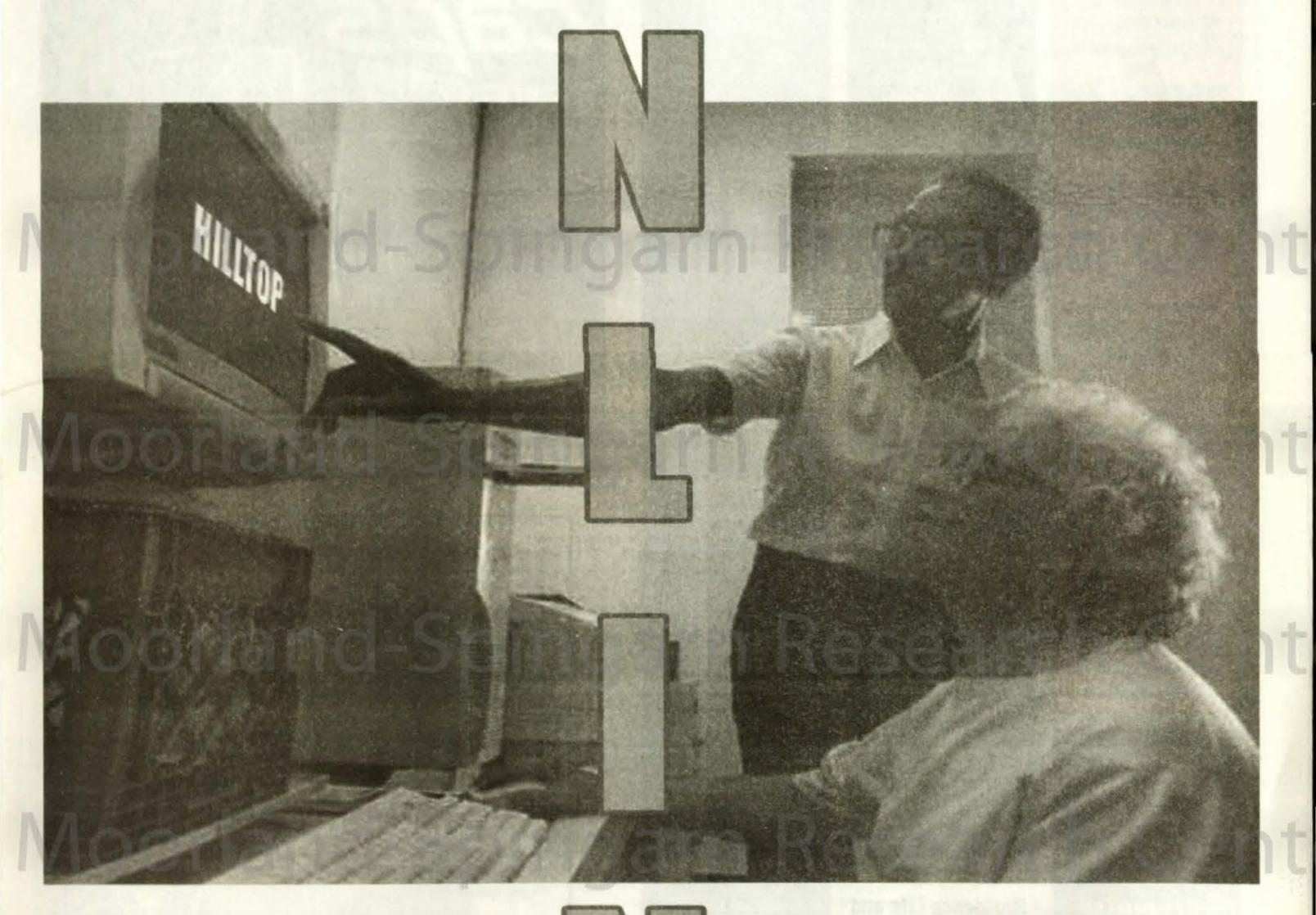
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grades K-8

Have a summer and

Howard University Steering Committee 2009 Presents: "Rhythm the Pulse of the People" Applications are now available in the Office of Student Activities located in the Blackburn Center, Suite 117 All applications are due on March 13, 2009 by 2:00 p.m. in the Office of Student Activities

Pricewater-Howard University's National Association of Black Accountants and Beta Alpha Ps organizations to bring you a Black History Month observance to remember! Wednesday, February 25, 2009 Howard School of Business Auditorium, 2nd Floor 7:00 PM Student Performances Interactive discussion on preparing to enter

an increasingly competitive job market Open dialogue

with PwC Partners on the impact of Black History on their career success and advice for yours (Reception immediately following program) Join us to hear

from PwC professionals who are living the changes, challenges and opportunities in the world of business and the For more

> contact Kim White at (703) 918-1925.

information,

Residence Life and Slowe Hall Present HU Carnival 2009! Burr gymnasium Friday, February 27, 2009 7pm-10pm Monetary donation will be accepted HU ID required for entry Music By Basement Knockers Host: IPals and CSA

Ribeau for a Pizza with the Prez reception by the Purpose

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2nd ANNUAL

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Douglass Hall

FEBRUARY 25

8:00 pm - 10:00

pm

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Melting Pot

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Program

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