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**WEATHER**

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# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO. 100

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Friday, February 27, 2009

Established  
**1924**

**Friday's Notebook**

**CAMPUS**

READ TO SEE WHICH SCHOOL HAD THE MOST SUCCESSES, TENSIONS DURING THE FINAL CROSSFIRE SPEAKOUTS.

PAGE 2

**NATION & WORLD**

READ ABOUT THE TRIAL OF THE IRAQI JOURNALIST WHO THREW HIS SHOE AT FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH.

PAGE 4

**SPORTS**

FIND OUT HOW STUDENTS FEEL ABOUT BLACK ATHLETES BEING IN INTERRACIAL RELATIONSHIPS.

PAGE 5

## Tuition Protests Press on at UDC

UDC students continue weeks of rallies, protests in response to tuition increase



Students at the University of D.C. have been protesting for weeks against the rise in tuition.

BY CRYSTAL COOPER  
Contributing Writer

The projected \$1,600 tuition increase at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) for fall 2009 has frustrated students demanding the administration save UDC, causing them to pro-

test against the rise in tuition.

The originally proposed \$3,300 increase would have doubled tuition at the university in a matter of months. But, under pressure from disgruntled students, the Board of Trustees and President Allen L. Sessoms divided the increase into two parts, the second of which will increase tuition by another \$1,700 in 2010.

Though this compromise aids in the transition process, students remain unsatisfied. Joshua Lopez, a senior history major at UDC, is the organizer of Operation Save UDC. "Phase II" of the operation calls for students to take action by contacting D.C. mayor Adrian Fenty and D.C. council members in hopes to overturn the tuition increase.

Lopez believes that a 100 percent tuition increase is a threat to public education. Marco Murillo, a sophomore social sciences and urban affairs major, is a member of the Save UDC movement, and voices similar complaints.

"It's unfortunate for UDC to be straying from its root reasons for being founded," Murillo said.

He refers to UDC being the District's only public university, which was designed to be a school for people without many other options.

The projected tuition increase comes as a shock to students, not only because of its abrupt implementation, but also due to the history of mistrust between the students and administration. Such a history has created a hostile atmosphere and bitter sentiments.

> See UDC, page 3

## Students, President Ribeau Mingle, Talk

'Pizza With The Prez' enables students to discuss their issues, connect with Ribeau

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON  
Staff Writer

The room was filled with pizza, socializing and President Ribeau, as the "Purpose" campaign hosted the first 'Pizza With The Prez.'

'Pizza With The Prez' is a part of the "Get Familiar" Movement tier of the "Purpose" platform.

Howard University Student Association (HUSA) candidates Andrew Jones, executive president; and Asia Smith, executive vice president, view it as a way for students to connect with their president in an unconventional and comfortable way.

"This is a resounding success in a since that it shows the students that our platform is not just empty rhetoric, but it is functional and realistic," Jones said.

Students got a chance to interact with President Ribeau, whether it was to voice their opinions about issues at Howard or just show their face and introduce themselves.

"He put this on his platform, and he is already putting it into existence," said Jasmyin Durham, a freshman broadcast journalism major.

President Ribeau seemed just as thrilled as the students to be interacting in an informal setting with the chance of seeing faces and getting to know names.

Ribeau noted that this was a wonderful opportunity for him to connect with students not just about problems but also on a personal level.



At 'Pizza With The Prez,' students got the opportunity to meet and talk with President Ribeau. The event was part of the initiative of the "Purpose" platform in this year's elections.

"It's important; I need to hear all of the thoughts from the students so that I can inform the Board of Trustees," said Ribeau.

The students who attended the event ranged from student leaders to students who just wanted to see their president in an up-close and personal atmosphere, where their questions don't have to be rehearsed and overly thought out.

Undergraduate trustee candidate Nnamdi Anozie said that he is excited to have a president who is willing to engage with the students on a one-to-one basis.

"Already I have seen President

Ribeau more than President Swygert in the two and a half years I have been at Howard University," Anozie said.

Malik Washington, undergraduate trustee candidate, said this is a very out-of-the-box idea because everyone is doing town hall meetings.

He said the fact that President Ribeau is willing to participate in this shows he truly cares about his relationship with the students at Howard University.

"I don't think it was me that drew all of the attention; I think it was the pizza," Ribeau joked.

## 'VERDE' Fashion: Dare to Wear 'Green'

Eco-fashion show promotes organic, vintage environmentally friendly attire

BY ALEESA MANN  
Life & Style Editor

Organic and vintage will be the key trends on display, as models walk down the runway Friday, Feb. 27 at the first-ever VERDE Eco-Fashion show, where green is the new black.

Organic cotton promotes a healthier environment because it is grown without the toxic chemicals used to produce synthetic textiles. Vintage clothing also

reduces the amount of waste entering the environment. The Council for Textile Recycling said that buying vintage leads to a reduction of 2.5 billion pounds of waste annually.

VERDE is a fashion show that not only promotes looking good, but doing good by promoting ways to be environmentally friendly, something Anjal Bennett-Judge, president of Howard University College Democrats, knows very well.

"I've always been interested in the

environment," said Bennett-Judge, who has organized The Green Print, a series of programming to make Howard's campus more sustainable.

"We're trying to change our campus and communities, but also Congress," she said. "Trends start not only from the bottom up, they also start from the top in order for us to make renovations and have progression."

> See VERDE, page 3



Radio personality Tom Joyner, a supporter of historically black colleges and universities, donated \$100,000 to Howard University for an alternative teacher program for graduates.

## Secretary of Education, Tom Joyner Tour Campus, Agree to Return to HU

BY OMARI EVANS  
Staff Writer

President Sidney A. Ribeau had the opportunity on Wednesday to take both syndicated radio personality Tom Joyner and the recently appointed U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on a tour of the Mecca.

"I think it was very exciting," Ribeau said, "and it was a great opportunity for us to have the Secretary of Education, along with Tom Joyner who is a supporter of our university — especially our college of education — on campus at the same time."

For some time now, Tom Joyner has been an advocate in higher education. Due to his support for a number

of initiatives at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Joyner got in a discussion with the Secretary of Education on his radio show about the innovative things happening at HBCUs. Eventually, the two agreed to join one another and visit one of these programs, Howard being one of many.

Through his foundation program, Joyner recently donated \$100,000 for an alternative teacher training program at Howard. The program is designed to allow graduates with degrees ranging from biology to mathematics to gain teaching certification within a year of training.

> See JOYNER, page 3

## Declining Economy Takes Toll on NFL Big Timers, Jobs Cut, Salaries Decrease

BY DEONTAY MORRIS  
Sports Editor

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell will be taking a 20-25 percent pay cut from his \$11 million salary, confirming that the downturn of the economy is finally catching up to the sports world.

Earlier this week, the NFL announced that it would be cutting about

15 percent of its 1,100 work force. The workers were let go mainly through buy-outs and layoffs.

Other high ranking NFL officials are freezing their salaries for the upcoming season. The NFL estimates 10 to 12 teams have laid off workers.

"I'm glad to see the NFL commissioner decided to take a pay cut; he could have been greedy like other high ranking officials," said Lenon Thompson, a junior sports management major. "I hope the recession doesn't affect the pro leagues too much though because people use it as an escape from their hard times."

The NFL also expressed sentiments that things could get worse, even though last season television ratings were high. They expect to find less corporate sponsors and people willing to pay for commercial advertisements during games.

Goodell is the second highest paid commissioner of a professional sports league. The highest paid is Bud Selig, commissioner for Major League Baseball; he is paid \$18 million annually. NBA commissioner David Stern earns \$10 million.

"I hope the rest of the commissioners follow suit. A few million from their pay could potentially pay 20-30 workers," said Thompson.

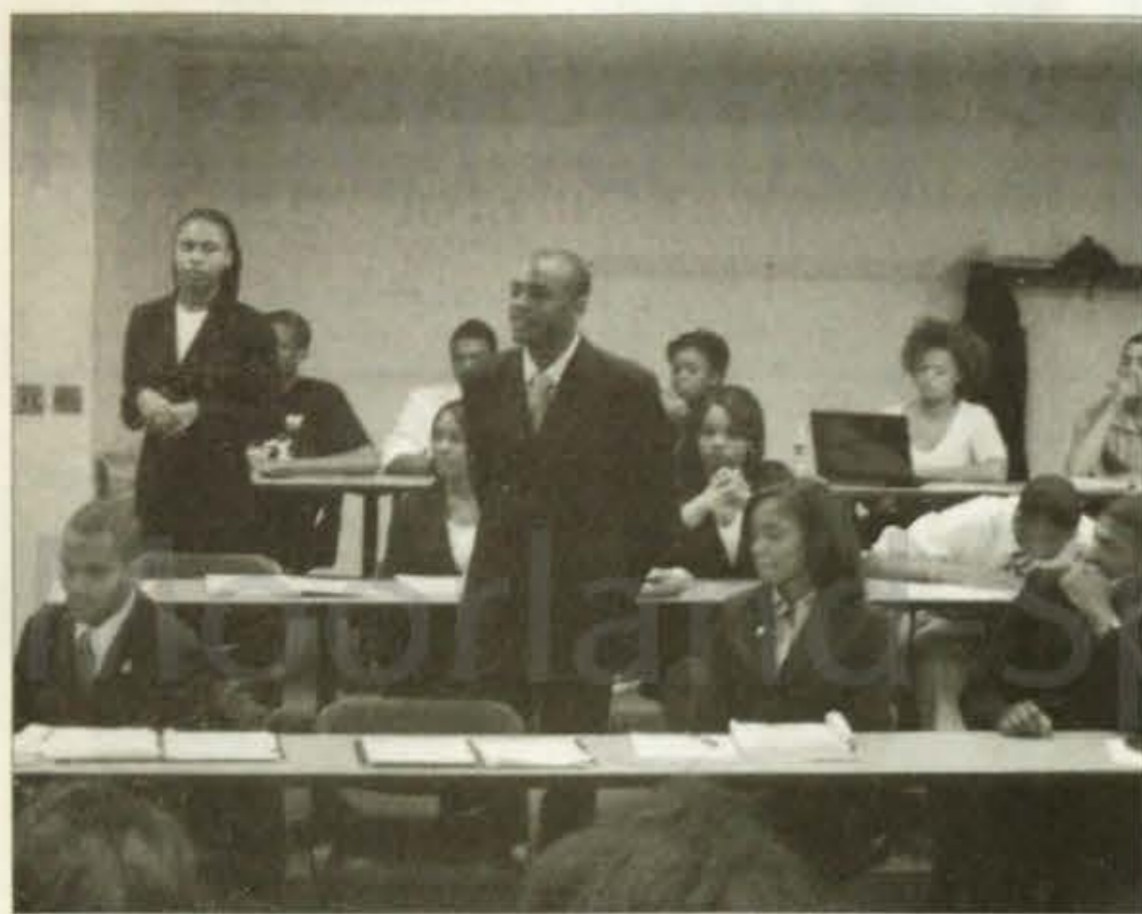
The NFL isn't the only league being affected by the economy. The NBA recently took out a \$200 million loan to help 12 teams pay for operating costs.



Roger Goodell, the NFL commissioner, is just one of millions affected by the recession this year.

# The Final Speak Outs End Campaigns

Financial issues still a priority for School of 'B' candidates and their platforms



School of Business vice president candidates discuss issues with their school in front of their fellow students. Candidates were given 30 seconds to speak to the audience.

BY TRAVIS WHITE  
Photo Editor

For the final event in the election season for the School of Business, both the "Family Reunion" platform and the "Accountability" platform, Undergraduate Student Assembly candidates and write-in candidates all made their final pushes for votes.

During this speak out, the current E-board administration of the school moderated as the panel. This included Patrick Scott, Undergraduate Student Assembly representative, and Asia Smith, candidate for vice president of HUSA.

"One of the greatest opportunities of this speak out was the opportunity to hear the different points of view of the different candidates," said Erika Bakkar, candidate for vice president. "One of the main problems is that both the audience and all the candidates focus on only the experience that one candidate has over an-

other instead of what each candidate had to offer in terms of ideas and what they can bring to the table."

The speak out combated multiple issues, including the financial deficit the School of Business council faced this year.

All candidates felt that it was necessary to first allocate the funds of the council in a manner in which School of Business students' needs were tackled before distributing money for their personal benefit.

Both the UGSA reps and the student council candidates at the end of the speak out each had a 30-second window to address the audience and make a final push for their positions.

Each candidate used his or her 30 seconds to inform the students that were in attendance of their past positions in student government.

- Additional reporting by  
Maya Rhodan, Contributing Writer



How serious do you think student elections should be taken?



"I feel that if the candidates are genuine, then you should take it serious. But if they're doing it for the stipend, then it's not that important."

-Tanis Robillard Jr.  
junior, finance



"I think they should be taken incredibly serious. They're making decisions about our student body and what goes on campus."

-Steven Vasquez,  
senior, international business



"I don't think they should be taken that serious. They take too much time, too much energy. And that work should be used toward making changes on campus with or without a position."

-Charles Jean Pierre,  
2nd year graduate, sociology



"They should be taken as seriously as the students who want to see change."

-Mia Richards,  
senior, jazz studies

-Compiled by  
Linsey Isaacs, Asst. Campus Editor  
Travis White, Photo Editor

## Change to Come for CPNAHS Students

BY ODOCHI IBE  
Contributing Writer

The College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Health Sciences (CPNAHS) held their last speak out for prospective candidates Thursday, each with opposing views on how to improve their school.

All the candidates recognized that their student council needed a change in the way it addressed the issues that the students have.

Felicia Cordy, a sophomore nursing major running for Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) representative said, "This past fall semester was very difficult for many CPNAHS students because their problems are just being stagnated and just staying down the hill."

Cordy wants to be UGSA representative because she feels she would be the best outlet for addressing such issues to the community.

Other problems that were voiced during the speak out were funding issues, old equipment, unsafe conditions and miscommunication within student council and the general body of students.

Kiara Key, a junior pre-physical therapy major who is running for executive secretary, voiced her plans on improving students' knowledge about their school by establishing a monthly

newsletter.

"All we ask for is an update, that's all; just an update on what people ask for during monthly meetings," Key said. "We would like to know when accreditation is coming up."

A hardcopy of the updates would hold more accountability, Key said.

Many students agree that the candidates were for their issues.

"I felt that the newer candidates did much better than I thought they would; many of the issues came to a head," said Jasmine Weatherly, a junior TV production major. When asked about the current members of the student council she said, "I have been watching their progress, and I just believe they need a little more time to bring things to pass because a lot of doors were shut on them; it is all about trial and error."

Sabrina Simmons, a senior executive president candidate, was excited about the final speak out.

"This is the first time more than one person is running for a position within CPNAHS," Simmons said. "Even though many people did not turn out for the speak out, it is a major improvement from last year when only one person outside of student council showed up. I feel like people are really beginning to care about this school."



The final speak out theme was "Crossfire" where the candidates from "Brighter Day" and "Advance" directly addressed their opposing slates as well as their platforms.

Ryan Hamilton - Contributing Photographer

## School of 'C' Hosts 'Crossfire' Speak Out

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON  
Staff Writer

The final School of Communications "Crossfire" speak out created the opportunity for candidates to address each other Thursday night and allowed students to address the executive slates, "Advance" and "Brighter Day."

"I feel like Eunique Hansel [UGSA candidate] won because she is the most qualified, the most prepared and has an overall feasible platform," said Chris Buckner, a senior television production major.

The Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) representatives asked each other similar questions, pertaining to programming, legislation and each platform.

"I want to focus on legislation rather than programming, that in many cases students don't attend," said De'Rell Bonner, UGSA representative candidate.

He said that he wanted to make a change in student government from "skit leaders" to leaders who actually care about the students they are serving.

"Being somebody who knows how to plan a program and put into action," said candidate Michael Tomlin-Crutchfield about his skills to change UGSA.

The School of Communications "Advance" and "Brighter Day" slates discussed the mentorship program, visibility days and the duties of their jobs.

"I felt like the 'Advance' team came more prepared; their rebuttals and answers were more structured and eloquent," said Terja Gibson, a sophomore psychology major. "Although I did see passion and drive for the position from 'Brighter Day.'"

The "Brighter Day" slate wants to have an interaction-based mentorship where students can find out who they like and who they don't like.

Speaking about the current School of Communications student council visibility days, executive vice president candidate Candace Smith said holding them monthly instead of spur of the moment, like the current administration, would be more effective.

"Not just sitting at a table but actually interacting with students," Smith said.

"Brighter Day" executive vice president candidate Alexis Cook resigned the RISE administration for reasons deemed unexplainable at the speak out.

She questioned "Advance" executive treasurer candidate Alvin Staley about his experience. Staley has served as assistant to the current treasurer of the School of 'C' for three months.

Don't forget to log on to Bison Web on March 3 to vote!

## COAS Gives 'Green Light' to 'Fresh' Tensions

BY JESSICA LEWIS  
Staff Writer

Thursday evening served as the last opportunity for College of Arts and Sciences (COAS) executive board candidates to make a case for the constituents to get "Fresh" or give their issues the "Green light."

The format of the evening allowed for the candidates to directly address their opposing slates with questions. During the event, the candidates showed the audience their true "passionate" nature.

Executive presidential candidate Pierre Whatley, his running mate Kenya James and the executive treasurer candidate Brandon Harris began the line of questioning by asking the "Green light" campaign why the Fine Arts students were not directly mentioned in their platform.

Dorien Blythers, executive presidential candidate of the "Green light" campaign pointed out the Fine Arts students in the audience, approxi-

mately nine in attendance, and asked for students who had personally talked to him or seen him addressing issues in the division to announce themselves. The same nine students plus three others raised their hands.

According to Blythers and his running mate Llewintina King, it should be known already that Fine Arts is a division of COAS, and no special separation of interest is needed to represent students.

Whatley disagreed, saying that although a division of interests should not be needed, it is the reality of COAS that it is. He also said that international students needed to be directly targeted and represented.

Tensions between the two candidates rose from that question on, as answers began to be more personal.

Whatley asked the question why the "Green light" campaign borrows a lot of their ideas from other candidates such as the "online grievance tracker, bull!"

King responded by telling



Tensions rose in COAS when candidates' questions pitted their ideas against one another.

Jessica Lewis - Staff Writer

Whatley, "Let's be professional. Let's try that."

Cameron Lewis, a junior Afro-American Studies major, in a question to the candidates remarked that "there seems to be a lot of animosity" before asking the candidates to share kind

compliments about the other's platform.

James said, "In a debate situation, things get heated."

Whatley and Blythers did confess to having a friendship though and embraced.

## HUPD Rewards a Job Well-Done

BY JESSICA LEWIS  
Staff Writer

The awards represent going above and beyond the call of duty at the Fourth Quarter 2008 Employee Awards Program.

Chief Leroy K. James and Captain Alton Goodwine of the Howard University Police Department stood before ranks of officers to hand out awards to "recognize those officers who do an extraordinary job."

The ceremony began with the commendation awards. Goodwine set the tone by reading a letter about the night of Dec. 24, 2008, when the hospital caught fire. Officer Kevin Jones was alerted of smoke, and without proper equipment,

evacuated all patients and hospital staff preventing anyone from being seriously injured. Due to his actions, he was treated for smoke ventilation.

After receiving one of the awards, Jones said, "It feels good that other people are thinking about you. We get a bad reputation sometimes from students."

Another recipient, Officer Bernadine Parker, simply said, "It feels great."



Chief Leroy K. James (left) is seen here giving Officer Bernadine Parker (right) her award.

The big first place winners of the night were the Special Assignments Team.

## UDC Students Rally, Protest Against Tuition

continued from FRONT, VERDE

Between 2004 and 2007, UDC implemented a tuition increase of 40 percent. This was said to help build a student center in order to improve student extracurricular activities. Murillo believes the administration squandered the money, since students are still paying for the non-existent student center.

In a UDC press release dated Feb. 16, President Sessoms stated, "UDC students deserve the academic experience and services worthy of their capabilities and highest aspirations." This, according to Sessoms, makes tuition increase a necessity.

A *Washington Post* editorial by Marc Fisher is posted on the movement's Web site, [www.saveude.com](http://www.saveude.com), in

protest to Sessoms's claim. Fisher opposes hiking up tuition first in order to improve services later. He instead believes that UDC must "first address its poor quality instruction and lousy record of graduating students." Only after this problem is solved should the university consider a tuition increase.

Murillo backs this approach. "The administration wants UDC to be competitive with George Washington, American University and the like," he said. "There's nothing wrong with competition, but we all agree that UDC needs to step its game up first."

For several weeks, UDC students have held rallies and protests to get the decision overturned. They will continue to do so until action takes place.

## Secretary of Education Visits Campus

Duncan has big plans for stimulus funds recently passed by President Obama

continued from FRONT, JOYNER

About 25 students from the Chicago People's Union (CPU) and three from the Tom Joyner Foundation were able to meet with them briefly, prior to the tour.

"It was a really good time," said Danielle James, a junior pre-pharmacy major and president of the Chicago People's Union. Prior to Duncan's appointment to U.S. Secretary of Education, he was superintendent of Chicago Public Schools and had worked with the CPU students. He used the time to meet with and acknowledge them. It was the first time for some of the CPU students to meet Secretary Duncan face to face, so many were excited.

"They said the tour was wonderful," said Ribeau. "They enjoyed the students. They enjoyed the fact that we had, along with the teachers who were

working for their certification, Howard students in each classroom."

"[Secretary Duncan] thought it was a great model for how to do innovative things in education, and I think he was very pleasantly surprised all this was happening at Howard University."

One hundred billion dollars out of the \$700 billion stimulus money recently passed by the Obama administration is dedicated purely to improving education, to which Secretary Duncan is responsible for handling.

"The secretary is new to his position and kind of formulating his policy, so for us to get a chance to talk to him about what we do at Howard is very important," Ribeau said.

Hopefully, Ribeau said, a large portion of the stimulus will go to Howard and other HBCUs. And when the time arose, he would use it in the K-12 education department to help prepare

more teachers. Ribeau was particularly concerned about getting African-American males into college and getting those men prepared to teach in elementary, middle and secondary schools. Building new facilities and upgrading our facilities and laboratories would also be on the agenda, if stimulus funds allowed him to do so.

However, Ribeau said that he wouldn't use funds from the stimulus to directly help students who may have trouble with the upcoming tuition increase. Instead, the university would use its own funds to help suffering students.

"We're going to be able, with the funds we generate from the tuition increase, to dedicate a certain portion of that back to financial aid," Ribeau said. "So we're going to be able to do that ourselves."

## Fashion World: 'Green is the New Black'

continued from FRONT, VERDE

Yet, Bennett-Judge about her peers; they are slow to catch on to the eco-friendly movement. She wants to change that and make Howard's campus more environmentally sustainable.

To accomplish that feat, Bennett-Judge is coupling environmental issues with something she feels is popular with Howard students — fashion. This year, the College Democrats are partnering with other organizations, including Engineers Without Borders and Howard University Environmental Society to host VERDE Eco-Fashion Show, an eco-friendly fashion show being held as part of this year's Power Shift conference.

Power Shift is a four-day conference (Feb. 27 - Mar. 2), put on by the Energy Action Coalition, that will bring together young people from across the nation who seek to address elected officials on issues of the economy, climate and clean energy policies. The fashion show will be held Feb. 27 at 10:30 p.m. in the Washington Convention Center.

Alexandria McBride, president of Engineers Without Borders (EWB), joined in to sponsor the event, which she feels aligns with her organization's goals.

"Since our inception two years ago, we've tried to be the leaders on campus in educating students on how to be environmentally friendly," said McBride, a senior civil engineering major. "We heard about Amal and what she's trying to do, and she is bringing the message that we're trying to spread to Howard students."

EWB has hosted and participated in several events promoting environmental awareness, including creating their own environmental awareness campaign,

EJ, holding a screening of the film "An Inconvenient Truth" and participating in Green Bison, an event to educate students on going green.

The VERDE fashion show puts a new spin on an old issue.

"We can't use 20th century solutions to solve 21st century problems," said Bennett-Judge. "The environmental crisis is something that's going to affect our generation the most. I feel like as African-Americans, we tend to be on the back burner instead of the forefront, and I feel it's important that students understand the importance of having sustainable environmental policies nationally, as well as globally."

Her concerns aren't unjustified. In "A Climate of Change: African Americans, Global Warming and a Just Climate Policy of the U.S.," a study conducted by the Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative (EJCCI) in July 2008, the EJCCI studied the impact of climate change on African-Americans.

The study found that African-Americans, who make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, emit nearly 20 percent less greenhouse gases than non-Hispanic whites per capita.

"Though far less responsible for climate change, African-Americans are significantly more vulnerable to its effects than non-Hispanic whites," the study reports.

Global warming is expected to increase the extremity of heat waves and other heat events. African-Americans suffer heat death at a rate 150-200 percent higher than the rate of non-Hispanic whites.

Climate change also impacts energy costs, on which African-Americans spend 30 percent more of their income than non-Hispanic whites.

"One thing that some people don't know and might forget is that African-American communities and low-income communities are the ones that are already dealing with environmental hazards," said Kari Fulton, national campus campaign coordinator for the EJCCI and co-chair of the agenda for this year's Power Shift conference.

"The future of black history depends on us claiming and paying attention to the future green economy that is building up today," said Fulton, a Howard graduate.

According to Fulton, an important part of supporting positive economic policies is paying attention to legislation being made today, some of which could negatively impact the environment.

One of the bills considered last year was the Lieberman-Warner Climate Change Legislation, which aimed to put strict upper limits on greenhouse gases, but at the same time would lead to an increase in energy costs.

"That bill got shot down, but many others are under negotiation," Fulton warned. "If we're not paying attention, those could be really bad because it could increase our energy prices so low-income communities and communities of color will be carrying the burden."

Fulton sees the fashion show as a great way to bring a more youthful, popular appeal to environmental issues so that younger generations will become more interested and attentive to environmental issues.

"The fashion show is an opportunity for Howard students to feel connected to this movement in a way they may not have felt connected before," she said.

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# Iraqi Shoe Thrower Says Bush's 'Icy Smile' Got the Best of Him

RENTON DANIEL  
Patchy Newspapers (MCT)

BAGHDAD — When Iraqi journalist Muntathar al-Zaidi took the stand Tuesday, he said that he hadn't planned to throw his shoes at President George W. Bush, but the sight of the smirking leader at the Baghdad news conference got the best of him.

"He had an icy smile with no emotion or spirit," said al-Zaidi, who was seated in a wooden pen. "At that moment, I only saw Bush, and the whole scene turned black. I was feeling the anger of innocent people moving under the rug."

Al-Zaidi's testimony Thursday marked the opening day of the high-profile trial. He's accused of assaulting a former head of state on an official visit. Bush made his widely televised Middle East trip to Baghdad on Dec. 14. The prosecution could lock up al-Zaidi for 15 years.

It was the first time that al-Zaidi appeared in public since Iraqi security forces arrested him after he threw his shoes at Bush, narrowly missing him, and called him a dog, an insult in the Arab world.

Judge Abdul Ameer Hassan al-Jaburi adjourned the trial until March to ask the Cabinet whether Bush's presence qualified as an official visit.

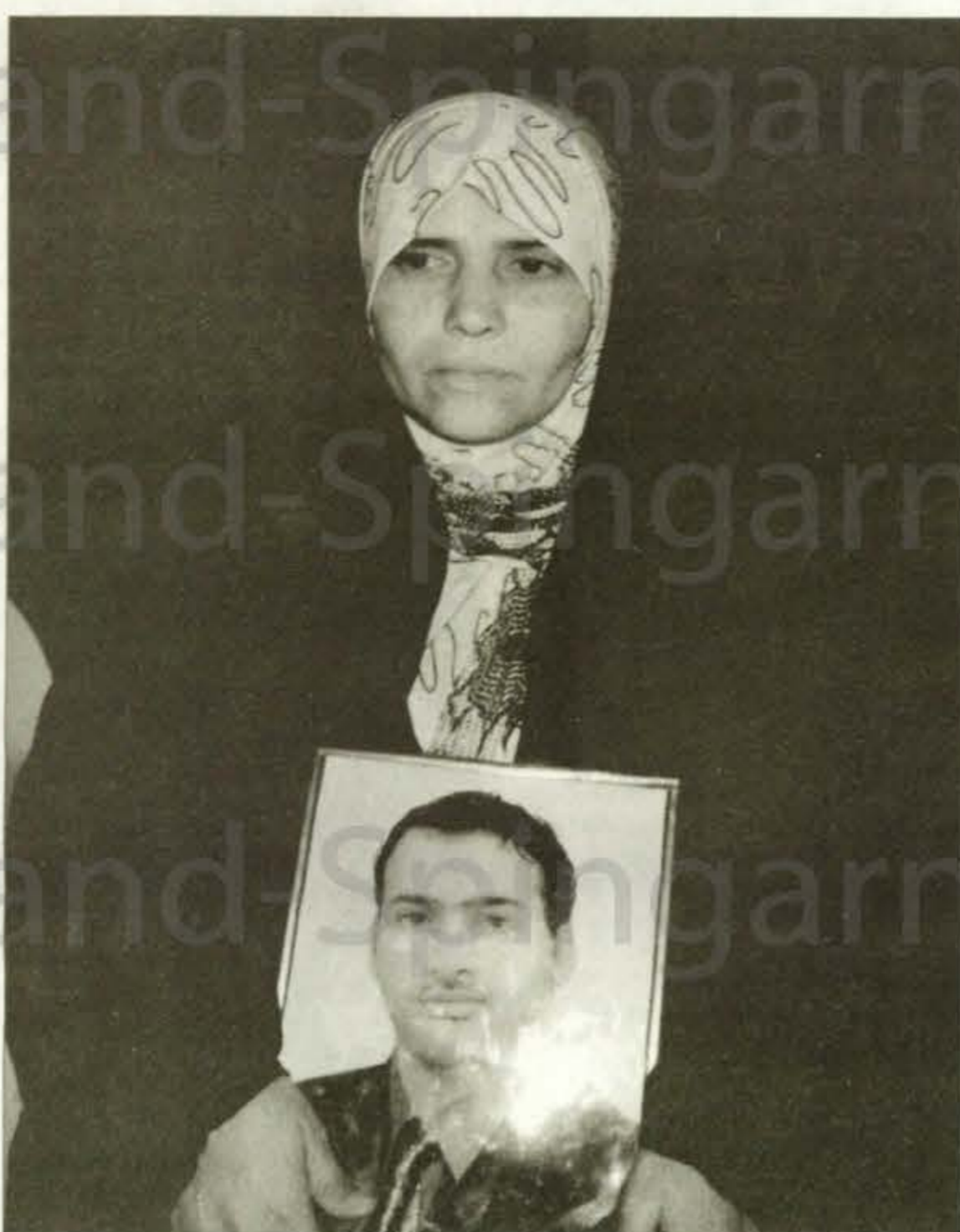
Defense attorney Dhiyaa al-Saadi filed an earlier appeal seeking to have the charges to "insulting a foreign official," which would result in a prison term of two years and a fine, but the judge denied the request. Al-Saadi and al-Zaidi's family charge that the journalist has been beaten while in custody.

The trial is certain to spotlight the strength and independence of Iraq's judicial institutions - in this case, the judiciary - as the U.S.-led occupation cedes authority to Iraqis and Washington is to withdraw its troops by the end of 2011.

The case is also likely to draw further attention because some Iraqis suspect that al-Zaidi may have been coerced to throw the shoes.

Since the December news conference, many Iraqis have hailed al-Zaidi as a hero. An artist built a monument in his honor, and lawyers throughout the Arab world volunteered to represent him.

Others, however, think that the journalist insulted Prime Minister Nouri



Um Saad, al-Zaidi's sister, holds his photograph during a protest for his release. Al-Zaidi threw his shoes at President George W. Bush in a press conference in Iraq.

al-Maliki, because Bush was his guest. Al-Maliki's office called the incident barbaric.

On Thursday, the crowd in the courtroom in Baghdad's Central Criminal Court swelled as more than 100 people showed up, including al-Zaidi's siblings, cousins and friends, who packed the first two rows. Some lawyers from al-Zaidi's 25-member defense team huddled at his side.

Iraqi politicians and Western and Iraqi reporters, as well as a couple of observers from the U.S. Embassy, also helped fill the room.

When guards escorted al-Zaidi into the courtroom, his brother Dhergham jumped to his feet and ap-

plauded. Al-Zaidi's other siblings and their supporters began chanting, "May God be with you!"

Al-Rubaie silenced the commotion and threatened to evict any disruptive audience members.

Al-Zaidi's family members, most of whom haven't seen him since his arrest, said he looked healthy, especially so because they believe that he has been beaten while in custody. They cited a chipped tooth as evidence.

Through the day's hearing, al-Zaidi was held in a pen that came up to his chin. He wore an olive-green coat and an Iraqi flag over his shoulders, which Dhergham passed to him. His footwear: brown loafers, not the famous heavy-

soled shoes he had chucked at Bush. Iraqi security agents destroyed that pair while checking them for explosive materials.

Two guards flanked al-Zaidi, and others stood nearby.

When it was al-Zaidi's turn to speak, he recalled the day with clarity, speaking for about 90 minutes. He said that Bush wasn't an Iraqi guest when the U.S. commander in chief boasted of his administration's accomplishments.

"I don't know what kind of achievements he was talking about," al-Zaidi said. "I just saw seas of Iraqi blood."

Al-Zaidi referred to the tens of thousands of Iraqis who have died or been displaced since U.S.-led troops toppled despot Saddam Hussein in 2003. The occupation unleashed five years of sectarian clashes and insurgent attacks.

At the news conference, Bush also mentioned his dinner plans with al-Maliki, al-Zaidi said.

"I wanted to express my feelings on behalf of the Iraqi people from the very north to the very south," Zaidi said.

Al-Rubaie said he had viewed a video in which al-Zaidi said he planned to insult Bush at a news conference in Amman, Jordan, two years ago. Al-Zaidi didn't deny he said that, but he added that the tape was irrelevant because he didn't go to the Jordanian capital.

When the judge postponed the trial, al-Zaidi's sisters rushed to the pen to kiss and visit him, sobbing and wiping their eyes. Security guards ordered them and others out of the courtroom.

Family members feared that al-Zaidi would be beaten if he were returned to the detention center in the Green Zone, the heavily guarded compound where the U.S. Embassy, the Iraqi parliament and other government offices are based. His attorneys said they would consider filing a request to transfer him to a safer location.

"It is possible he will be tortured for what he said in court," defense attorney Yihya al-Attabi said.

Some family members worried for al-Zaidi, but others were more hopeful.

Said sister Um Dali al-Zaidi, 25: "We feel the session was good, and we trust the Iraqi judiciary."

# Bobby Jindal, McBrayer on 'The Same Page'

STEVE JOHNSON  
The Tribune (MCT)

So now that Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal has been compared across the country to Kenneth the page from the wide-eyed comedy "30 Rock," the question almost asks itself: How long before Jack McBrayer, the Second City comic who plays Kenneth, will be enlisted by NBC's "Today" show?

We'll answer that, as best we can, in a moment. Though, the comparison to Jindal was looser and

more natural in his "Today" show interview Wednesday morning, but on Tuesday night, delivering the Republican response to President Obama's address to Congress, he did indeed bring the name of Kenneth to the fore. The slow, mannered delivery. The gee-whizz effect.

What this means is that, with Alaska governor Sarah Palin finding her pop-culture doppelganger in Tina Fey, the two Republican front runners for the 2012 nomination (an important status to have almost four years out, to be sure) have comic analogs in the "30 Rock" cast.

It could be worse for the Republican party. Instead

of one of the best shows on TV, its contenders could be drawing comparisons to the east of "My Name Is Earl," for instance. Or "Wife Swap."

Now, about "SNL": NBC doesn't comment about who might play whom on the show, and McBrayer couldn't be reached. The show is in reruns this weekend, when the Jindal iron is hottest.

When the show does return on March 7, the host will be Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. But the week after that, the likely host is none other than Tracy Morgan, star of "are you ready?" "30 Rock."



Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal talks during a plenary session at the 2008 Republican Governors Association Annual Conference in Miami.



Comedian Jack McBrayer, who plays Kenneth the Page on the NBC sitcom, "30 Rock," makes a gesture during an interview in Manhattan, N.Y.

## On a Mission...



BY JADA F. SMITH  
Nation & World Editor

I never realized how big a role the media plays in our society, until I became a part of the media. Think about it; we consume the media almost as much or more than we consume food on a daily basis, and in a way, it's feeding our minds in the same way food feeds our stomachs.

So in the same way that our bodies become lazy, lethargic and unhealthy when we consume too much junk food, so do our minds when we consume too much junk media.

With that being said, I feel a certain responsibility as a member of the Howard University media to fill the budding minds on campus with news that I hope will open your eyes to the world in a way that the mainstream media often chooses to ignore.

Therefore, Howard University, I officially announce to you the start of my mission: to give you what your mind's diet has been missing. I feel a certain responsibility to the readers of *The Hilltop* to provide you with a perspective on the news that can't be found on the average TV channel, radio station or newspaper.

I feel duty bound to report on news that affects communities that are often ignored by the media.

Last semester, I took a class with one of my favorite professors, Peggy Lewis, called Multicultural Media History.

As a part of the class, we had to do a group project on the presidential election that researched the issues that concern groups that are often ignored by the media, like Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, Gays and Lesbians, Middle Eastern-Americans, among others.

Before the class, whenever I thought of people who were usually portrayed negatively or just plain ignored by the media, I only thought about black people. I never realized that there are plenty of ethnic groups whose issues never get any play in the news.

But, the goal of this mission is not just to tell the stories of those Americans who can't get airtime on the news channels that are supposed to represent them, but to bring attention to the mother continent of Africa.

I've started my mission with "Motherland Mondays," a staple I started running on Mondays that seeks to bring you news about what's going on in Africa.

On Fridays, I usually run a column from the Kwame Toure Society. They have done an excellent job of providing the campus with a Pan-African perspective on current events within the Diasporan community.

I say all this to ask you, the reader, to hold me accountable. Hold me to a standard that will require me to carefully review everything I publish in my section and to not take anything for my face value.

I want you to constantly question me; ask me what I'm doing to nourish your mind today. I want you to genuinely learn something after reading the Nation & World section in *The Hilltop*.

As the designated media of Howard University, I have the huge responsibility of making sure that I don't perpetuate the ignorance that the mass media tries to spread.

If I finish this year without having tried my best to enlighten the campus about news that is important to all Americans, then I have failed.

But I can't do this without your questioning mind and your thoughtful feedback.

It's time we start feeding our minds with food that's going to help us be better, more informed citizens of the world. Not lazy citizens who will eat up anything the media tells us!

## Sports Trivia

Answer:

The Metrodome in Minneapolis, Minn. is the only venue to host the Super Bowl, World Series and the Final Four.

## INTERRACIAL DATING EXISTS IN SPORTS WORLD

BY ALONA SISTRUNK  
Contributing Writer

As more successful black athletes look outside of the African-American community for love, interracial dating has become more of a hot topic on Howard University's campus.

Not too long ago, the insinuation of a black man giving what was deemed an inappropriate glance at a white woman resulted in physical violence. Today, the list of interracial relationships among black athletes has grown considerably. It includes Tiger and Elin Woods, Reggie Bush and Kim Kardashian, Richard Jefferson and Teresa Lourenco, Kobe and Vanessa Bryant, and Venus Williams and Hank Kuehne.

Brittany Stephens, a junior print journalism major and a member of the Howard University track team, said, "Black men who date outside of their race are sell outs. There are enough successful black females to date and marry."

For many HU students, seeing these sports superstars in interracial relationships evokes painful memories of the past.

Kandi Mukole, a junior sports management major and member of the Howard basketball team, said, "When I see a black female with a white man, it feels like white men are taking yet another thing away from [black men]."

Unique Cooper, a senior political science major had a completely different view.

"Interracial dating is not a bad thing," Cooper said, "but there is certainly a historical explanation for why more black men seem to fall in love with and marry white women more often after they gain financial success," Cooper said.

Some Bison are also troubled by the larger message these relationships send to the main stream public about black love.

"On one hand, I celebrate these

couples because they symbolize what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. died for, the right to choose someone based on the content of their character," said Cassandra Booker, a freshman political science major. "On the other hand, every time I see another black athlete choose a woman of a different race who looks nothing like me, it makes me question whether I am good enough, or pretty enough."

Of the students interviewed for this article, gender was a key factor in how they responded. Men usually were okay with black sports stars dating other races. Neither gender, on average, had many complaints about black female athletes dating other races simply because they felt it seldom occurred. However, female students fear that black male athletes' pursuit of interracial relationships diminishes their options for a suitable husband since black men marry outside of the race more often than black women do.

"Interracial dating is okay," said Andre Porter, a senior biology major. "I just get upset when those who choose to date outside of their race and make statements like 'all black men are lazy and in jail' or 'all black women have attitudes' to justify their decision. It only reinforces negative stereotypes about African-Americans."

In the 2000 U.S. Census, statistics showed that 6 percent of black men were engaged in interracial marriage compared to only 2 percent of black women.

Of these couples, 73 percent of them were black-white marriages, and 86 percent of black-asian marriages included a black man. According to the Census, five times as many black men (14 percent) lived with white women as opposed to black women who lived with white men.

Despite the increasing rate of interracial relationships, most students agree that when someone is in love, the skin color of his or her partner should not matter.



Kim Kardashian (left) and football player Reggie Bush, of the New Orleans Saints (right), are a couple. Bush is one of many black men who choose to date outside of their race. Other athletes include Tiger Woods and Kobe Bryant.

## Athletes Caught Using Steroids, Drugs

BY TERRICKA JOHNSON  
Editorial Assistant

With the recent surfacing of photos of Michael Phelps, United States Olympic gold medalist, the controversial topic of athletes and non-medical drug use has arisen once again.

"Everybody is going to make mistakes sometimes, but I guess he just got caught up at the wrong time," said India Bradford, a freshman undecided major who plays basketball.

Phelps, who was photographed smoking a substance believed to be marijuana from a bong, was recently suspended from competition for three months for his actions.

Rodino Wright, a sophomore sports management major who plays soccer, said, "I think they are blowing it out of proportion because it's not like it helps out his performance. But they have to do it because it is an illegal drug."

In addition to Phelps, former Atlanta Falcons running back, Jamal Anderson, was recently arrested for cocaine use in the rest room of an Atlanta bar.

Anderson, famous for his "Dirty Bird" celebration dance during the Falcon's Super Bowl journey during 1997, was forced to retire from the NFL after a second knee injury in 2001.

"Everybody has their own rights,



Jamal Anderson, a former running back in the NFL, was recently arrested for cocaine use.

but a lot of these athletes are role models, especially to little kids," said Wright.

In the 2007 edition of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Drug Education/Drug Testing Survey, statistical data showed that only 50 percent of NCAA regulated teams conducted drug-testing programs for student-athletes.

"They randomly test athletes. I have been tested before, but that was during my freshman year," said Wright.

The same survey showed that marijuana and cocaine are the most tested for drugs, at 97 percent and 94 percent respectively. For 83 percent of NCAA teams, treatment via a drug counselor was the first consequence.

In reference to Phelps, Bradford said, "We're all imperfect. Of course he should be penalized for what he did because it was wrong, but I don't think it should be blown up into a huge deal."

Use of steroids and other artificial performance enhancement drugs in the athletic arena has also become a big deal in the athletic world.

In 2003, Alex Rodriguez, third baseman for the New York Yankees, tested positive for steroid use.

"I think athletes who take steroids are cheating. There are some athletes who work hard to be where they are. They should just rely on their ability," said Chanel Bell, a freshman sociology and psychology major who plays soccer.

Though the MLB found that 104 players tested positive for steroids in 2003, the League did not establish regulations and consequences against such actions until 2004.

"Athletes should not use steroids. If you want to be good, then put the work in and be the type of player that you want to be," said Bradford.

Dana Stubblefield, former defensive tackle for the Oakland Raiders, was recently sentenced to two years of probation for steroid use after pleading guilty in his 2008 trial.

Other athletes, such as Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Duce McAlister, have undergone criticism for use of steroids or additives that mask steroid use.

"If you are going to be an athlete, you should set the tone and try to uphold a good image as much as possible," said Bradford.

## ResFest Uses Sports to Get Residents Involved

BY RYAN FOSTER  
Contributing Writer

Along with the promise of pleasant weather and looming final exams, spring semester ushers in the beginning of ResFest, Howard University's annual battle of the residence halls. Students can get involved in a wide variety of activities, from card games to dance, but year to year, Burr Night and flag football prove to be two of the most popular events.

Co-ed flag football teams from each residence hall meet on the turf to kick off the week's activities. As he gazes at a table piled high with shining ResFest trophies of years past opposite his desk, Cook Hall community director and ResFest director Coach Frank Dean explained the allure of the annual competitions.

"I'm looking forward to the sense of competition the most," said Dean. "It takes you back to your childhood days; it's probably one of my better times of the year." Dean's love for competition and team pride is the reason he has been involved with ResFest since its conception six years ago.

Although Dean serves as director, the majority of the responsibility of organizing ResFest lies in the hands of students. Theodore Graves, a junior advertising major and Meridian Hall Resident Assistant (RA), is heavily involved in the activities this year, serving as coordinator of basketball and football for Meridian and Burr Night representative. His duties include relaying messages from the ResFest committee to his dorm and organizing the basketball and football teams.

"As an RA, it's kind of my duty, but my main thing is to get the

residents involved," Graves said. "Me being an RA doesn't make people want to participate, but if they see other residents doing it, they're more likely to want to get involved."

Graves is also looking forward to seeing this year's basketball tournament, hopefully a legit competition with no incidents of disqualification, which was problematic last year.

As continuing students become upperclassmen and move on to different residence halls, they remember their time in previous residence halls and the excitement of ResFest. Jessica Freeland, a sophomore fashion merchandising major, will be participating in ResFest for her second year this spring.

When asked why she became involved for a second time, Freeland mentioned her sense of dorm pride and peer bonding.

"I got involved last year just because it was something else to do during second semester, and the reps in Cook Hall made it sound like a lot of fun," she said. "I wanted to do it again this year because a lot of people who did it before are doing it again; it's turning into a bonding experience. Oh, and I want to represent my dorm!"

All ResFest events are free, audience members and event participants often receive gifts and prizes, such as free T-shirts. According to Coach Dean, the operative term in describing ResFest is fun.

"If I could tell students anything about ResFest, I would emphasize the word fun," Dean said. "If you want to have a good time and not have to pay anything, come on out. You get a chance to cheer your classmates on, and it's a good time right before finals."

## TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

February 27, 1996

Tiger Woods becomes the youngest PGA golfer in 35 years at the age of 16.

Courtesy of www.todayinsports.com

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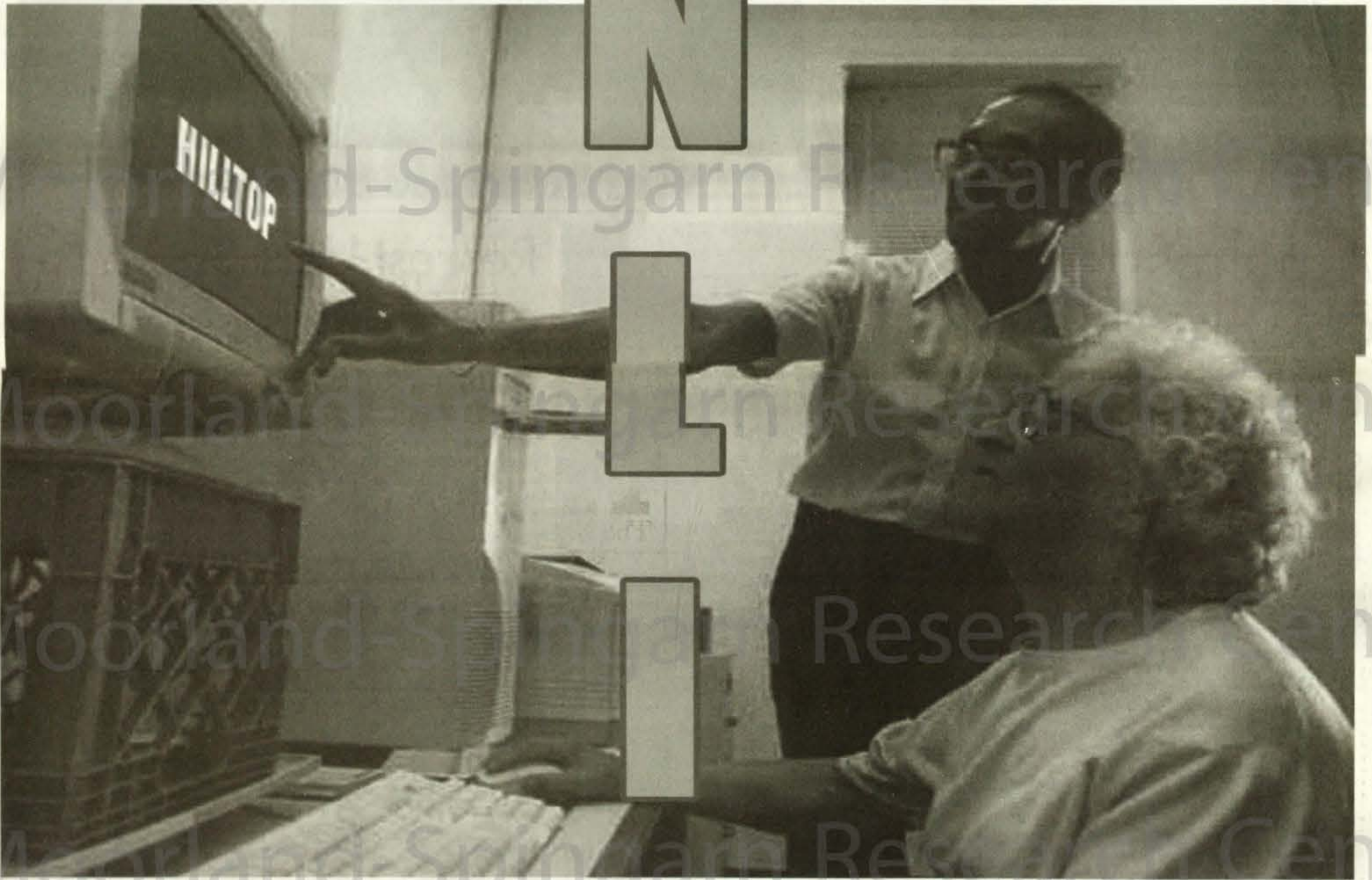
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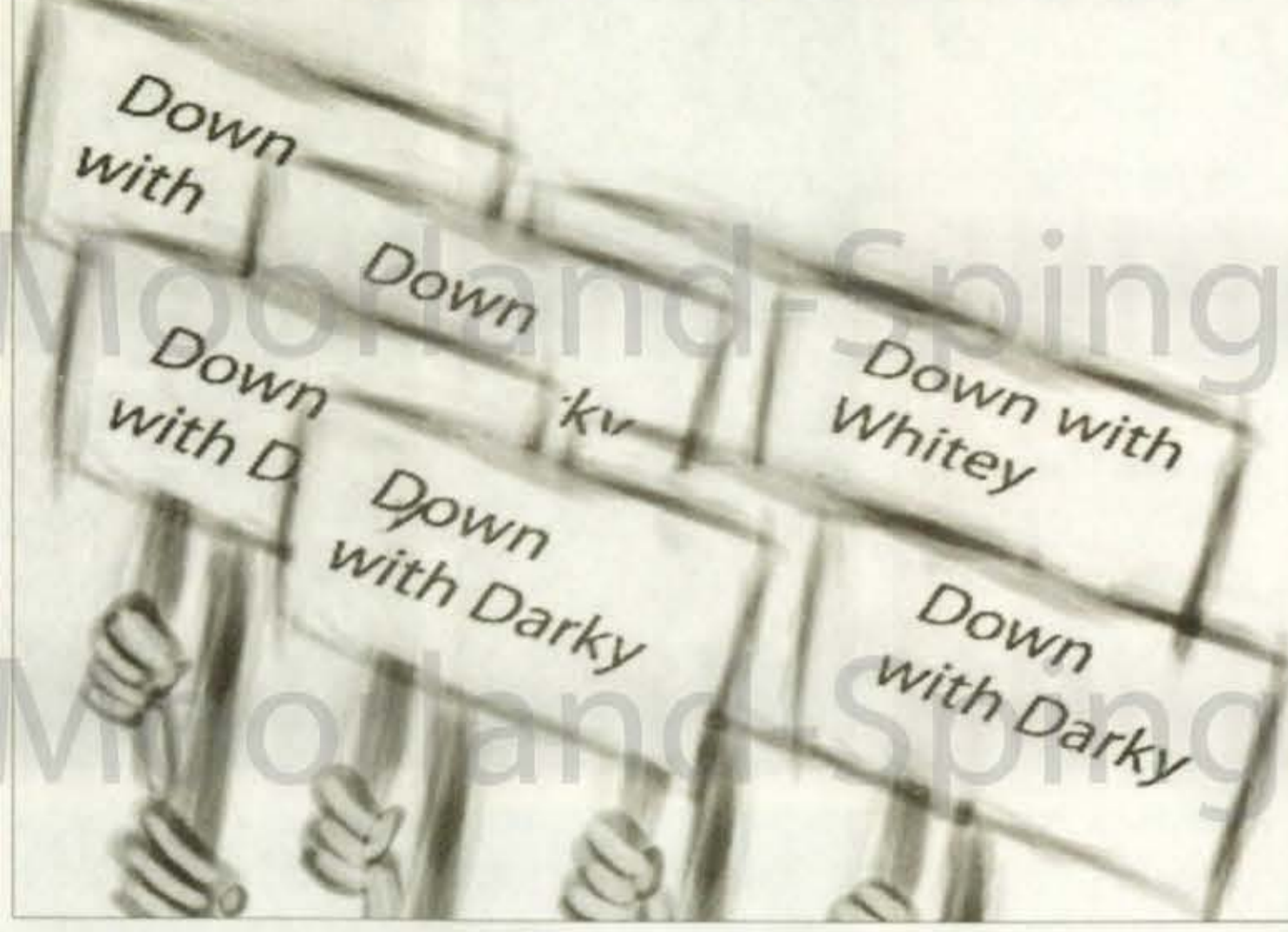


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**THE HILLTOP**

The World Just Got A Bit Colder



Charles Metz - Cartoonist

Non-Profit Legal Center Reports Increase in Hate Groups, Activity

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), a non-profit legal center known for its victories against white supremacist and other hate groups, released a report tracking a 54 percent increase in hate group activity since 2000.

In 2008, hate group activity increased by four percent when 926 groups were active in the United States as compared to the 888 groups in 2007.

According to the SPLC, up until recently, hate group activity was sparked by Latino immigration. However, two new factors have contributed to hate group activity in the United States: the state of the economy and the election of President Obama.

Unfortunately, the rise in hate group activity in the United States is no surprise. Americans have historically been known to form hate groups in response to the threatening power of minor-

ity groups.

The report also concludes that President Obama has received more threats than any other president in American history. In fact, some of the most extreme protests against Obama

Nation of Islam and the New Black Panther party and other black separatist groups to be a threat to society as well.

In 1991, the SPLC created "Teaching Tolerance," a program for K-12 teachers, to help combat hate. Since its establishment, the SPLC has worked with organizations such as the American Bar Association, the NAACP and the National Education Association to promote tolerance and education on hate group activity within the United States.

Although the radical racism of the past is no longer witnessed on a daily basis, there are still groups whose mission is to ensure racial supremacy of a particular group. In order to combat these, we must first become educated. Visit [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org) for more information.

Our View:

*We're not surprised at the increase in hate group activity. Someone will always try to steal your glory.*

were the product of radical black supremacists. These groups referred to him as "house [explicit] and puppet of Israel."

The average American probably generalizes hate groups with white supremacist, Klu Klux Klan affiliated groups. But, the SPLC considers groups like the Black Lawyers for Justice, the

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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	9		5					7
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7							3	

CORRECTION: In the Feb. 25, 2009 front page article, "State of the Union Witnessed Personally by Undergrad Trustee," President Obama's speech was incorrectly referred to as a "State of the Union" address. It was a speech to Congress.

Do you want to write for The Hilltop?

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

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Douglass Hall Room 116

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8:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
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-The Hilltop Staff