**Vermont Latest State to Legalize Gay Marriage**

Tuesday, the D.C. Council preliminarily voted to legalize gay marriage following Vermont and Iowa.

**BY GABRIELLE MONROE**

By Gabrielle Monroe

The decision followed the votes in Vermont and Iowa that recognized same-sex marriages as legal. The District of Columbia is one of 13 states that allows same-sex marriage.

Vermont lawmakers voted Monday to legalize same-sex marriage, and Iowa lawmakers voted Tuesday to legalize gay marriage.

On Monday, Vermont lawmakers voted to legalize gay marriage, becoming the first state to do so. Iowa lawmakers voted Tuesday to legalize gay marriage, becoming the second state to do so.

"This was a significant step forward," said Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin. "We are proud to be a leader in the movement for equality and justice."
Paper Trail: Tracking Obama’s Stimulus Spending

The stimulus bill President Barack Obama signed into law on Tuesday, Feb. 17, will allocate $717.2 billion of tax-payer money in hopes to revive the nation’s economy. Do you know where your money is going?

Where do you think the stimulus money will be best spent?

Name: Lashay Cherry
Classification: Freshman
Major: Film production

“The package should stimulate people’s ability to afford health care. Health care should be a right and not a privilege.”

Name: Sheena Baj
Classification: Freshman
Major: Political Science

“Education, because I am a struggling college student and I think there should be more financial aid available — especially because they are raising the tuition rates.”

Information courtesy of CNN.com
Compiled by Jada E. Smith, Nation & World Editor

How Well Do You Know Your ABCs?

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

NH: National Institutes of Health
NII: National Institutes of Health
NMB: National Mediation Board
NSC: National Security Council
NRC: Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Information courtesy of Unigo.com
Compiled by Jada E. Smith, Nation & World Editor

Happenings From Home

News from various states in the country

Oregon
Portland: Prescription drugs were responsible for the deaths of 7,000 Oregonians covering 10 years, many of them poor people in their 60s and 70s taking the drug for headaches, backaches and other ailments. The most deadly illegal drug remained heroin, which was blamed in 1,105 overdoses.

Manassas
Cambridge: Energy Secretary Steven Chu was scheduled to deliver the commencement address at Harvard University on June 5. Chu was a co-convener of the Nobel Prize in physics in 1997 for his role in developing methods to cool and confine plasma with laser light.

Idaho
Nampa – A gym ship collected more than 3 tons of food to be donated to the hungry in exchange for a raft ticket to win an AR-15 rifle and $1,000 worth of ammunition valued at $1,000.

North Dakota
Bismarck: Legislators are debating a bill to ban smoking in cars when children are riding along. The bill was pushed by a group of Williams County voters. The bill wins approvals pending a vote by a children’s rights group that favors the ban.

Kansas
Topeka: Legislators passed a bill limiting the number of violent assault perpetrators who can be housed in a single county while they’re waiting to be released from custody. If passed, the bill would reduce the number of violent assault perpetrators in eight counties.

Information courtesy of VoxKansans
Compiled by Jada E. Smith, Nation & World Editor

THE HILLTOP
Grief Counseling to Assist Students, Staff

"It's not only do we lose someone who we valued, or feel that we might have done something differently, but it usually creates a void for the family members of both the student and the professor," Jones said. "There's a disorienting feeling of losing a family member.

"Students may take the counseling service for granted," Jones realizes that services on campus such as counseling are usually taken advantage of. "On-campus counseling is a tremendous resource. It's alarmingly rare for people to use the service.

"A counselor can be a tremendous resource for students," Jones said. "I think if people use counseling, they will realize how precious the service is."

"When I heard about the death of one of his students," Jones said, "I realized that services for students are not taken advantage of. I think it is a resource that is not used enough."

"I think that if students use counseling, they will realize how precious the service is," Jones said. "I think it is a resource that is not used enough."

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Gay Marriage Getting More Acceptance in U.S.

By CONPLI T I NG THIS PROGRAM . YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR A $5,000 MINUSAND A Tuition SCHOLARSHIP

YOU HAVE TO DO SOME DIGGING TO GET THE INFORMATION, AND AS A LEADER OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN GLOBAL COMMUNITY, WE NEED TO TAKE ACTION AND GET OUR VOICES HEARD.

Join The Hilltop Staff!

Pick up your application TODAY in the Office of Student Activities!

Applications are due by 4 p.m. on Friday, April 17.

--

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest liaison, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, applauded the District of Columbia bill Tuesday.

HRC strives to end discrimination against women, and to raise a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

The vote in Vermont is historic because it's not a viable and sustainable political peace treat, the resolution of human crisis that has been committed and a possible division of southern Sudan from the rest of the nation.

"I really hope that everyone left the event with a sense of understanding about where we're going in Darfur, because it's not something that's resolved in CNN everyday," Jones said, "I think that if people use counseling, they will realize how precious the service is.

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Afghan Law Makes Spousal Rape Legal

BY SHYNEE FOSTER  Contributing Writer

According to UHSP Chief Larry A. Jones, there have been two sexual assaults reported this academic year, both occurring in Fall 2008.

Afghanistan's national legislation gives the government power to enforce strict Islamic law, which includes the highly controversial practice of spousal rape. The Afghan government has the authority to order the arrest of a husband who is accused of raping his wife or is suspected of rape. As a result, women have little legal recourse and are often left with no other option but to endure the violence of their husbands.

Under the rule of the Taliban government from 1996 to 2001, women were not permitted to appear in public without a chador, a form of protective clothing that covers the entire body except for the face and hands. This law was enforced by the Taliban, who used violence and intimidation to enforce their strict interpretation of Islamic law.

In order to protect women from spousal rape, 31 parliamentary women are being appointed to serve as advocates for domestic violence. These women have been appointed to work with families to help them understand their rights and to provide them with legal assistance.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai signed a bill that makes it illegal for men to demand sex from their wives, unless she is ill or has an illness that could cause her to become infertile.

This law has been welcomed by human rights groups in Afghanistan, where women's rights have been severely limited. The law has been praised as a step forward in the fight for women's rights in the country. However, it is important to note that the law does not provide women with any legal recourse in cases of spousal rape.

Afghani

Women in College Far More Likely to be Raped

BY JESSICA LEE  Staff Writer

One in six women will be a victim of rape in her lifetime. One in 15 men will claim victimization at some point in their lives.

Two Howard University Students recentlyetrod and, 89 percent of women were not permitted to appear in public without a chador, a form of protective clothing that covers the entire body except for the face and hands. This law was enforced by the Taliban, who used violence and intimidation to enforce their strict interpretation of Islamic law.

A United States Department of Justice publication by Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAIN) reports that 3 percent of women will be raped and 12 percent of American women will be raped at some point in their lives. It is also important to note that the law does not provide women with any legal recourse in cases of spousal rape.

The cases are being investigated by the Metropolitan Police Department and no arrests have been made.

According to Chief Larry A. Jones of the UHSP, both incidents occurred in residential areas with the last case, specifically occurring in the Howard Plaza area.

Knowing the problem is not the solution to the issue. According to RAIN, approximately two-thirds of victims do not report the attacks to the police because they fear reprisal or they do not feel their safety is threatened in the victim's lifetime.

Women ages 16 to 24 experience rape at rates higher than any other age group. This is because of the nature of the problem.

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAIN), 27 percent of women will be raped and 12 percent of American women will be raped at some point in their lives. It is also important to note that the law does not provide women with any legal recourse in cases of spousal rape.

According to RAIN, in one of the largest studies on rape victims, 60 percent of victims reported feeling guilty or ashamed about the rape. According to RAIN, in one of the largest studies on rape victims, 60 percent of victims reported feeling guilty or ashamed about the rape.

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Have you Had Your Daily Dose of HilltopOnline?

TheHillTopOnline.com
BY DEANNE BRADY
Contributing Writer

‘Harlem Heights’ Cast Keeps It Real Outside of Reality Series

BY BRIDGET BLAND and CHRISTIANA FIELDS (right) as one of the eight cast members on Harlem Heights, a show on BET in its first season. They discuss life on the show.

By Morgan Mahone
Contributing Writer

85 Years and counting...

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The Hilltop
2009 MLB Season Kicks Off, Expect the Unexpected

By DEVON MILLER

As many people look for a sign that the winter will soon be coming to an end, the major leagues are already on the move. The 2009 MLB season will start on April 1, with a number of iconic games and events in store.

The first night of April promises to be a memorable one, as the Philadelphia Phillies will host the New York Mets in a game that will draw a large crowd. The game will be the first of a series of high-profile games that will kick off the 2009 MLB season.

One of the most exciting aspects of the 2009 season will be the return of the Atlanta Braves to the National League East. The Braves, who have been a consistent contender in the division, are expected to be one of the teams to watch.

Another key event of the 2009 season will be the Hall of Fame induction ceremony, which will take place on July 26. The ceremony will feature a number of iconic players, including Frank Robinson and Hank Aaron.

In addition to these events, the 2009 season will also feature a number of teams that have had recent success, including the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Tampa Bay Rays. The Dodgers, who have had a number of recent playoff victories, will be a team to watch in the National League West, while the Rays, who have won the AL East in three of the last five seasons, will be a team to watch in the American League.

Overall, the 2009 MLB season promises to be an exciting one, with a number of teams and players to watch. With the hope of a successful season, fans can look forward to a year of baseball that will be remembered for years to come.
Malawi Refuses to Grant Madonna Another Adoption

Madonna recently tried to adopt her second child from Malawi, her 2-year-old daughter named Mercy, but was rejected by a Malawian court who ruled Madonna’s request to adopt was not supported by the current position of the country.

Some people believe this is a backlash of the moral climate, which is changing. Malawi is a very conservative state, so it’s a big step to this century.

However, it is not a way to instill cultural awareness among the parents who are adopting these children.

Malawi already had the idea that they refused to adopt her first Malawian child in 2006, which raises another question of how culturally in tune this is with the child she has already adopted.

Moreover, it’s interesting that celebrities like Madonna and Angelina Jolie are adopted from the United States, where there are fewer restrictions.

Of course everyone has the right to adopt children from where they feel fit, but what about children from the same state?

Our View:

Don’t eradicate these children’s cultures when continuing to adopt from Africa.

You aren’t “saving” or “giving” someone a life, you are simply changing the environment that they grew up in. This doesn’t change their culture, itただに出ない from the child.

We need to support and help in the community as much as possible.

In fact, to sincerely support the well-being and cultural survival of the child.

Perspective

Let Us Remember a Giant

Dear friends,

As I stood on the front steps of the C.B. Post building, looking over the sea of people that had gathered to remember Nelson Mandela, I thought about the former president of South Africa, a leader who was taken away from us far too soon, but what about millions of children who lose their lives each month?

The problem is that many people have a definition of “benevolent” and “no harm.”

The oxymoron has a definition of “harm” and “no harm” in some black Americans’ eyes, but black Americans, for others in black America, from any part of the world and, for many, is all America.

Angelina Jolie and Madonna, they seem to believe that the world is their community and they will offer their help to whoever they feel is in the most need.

Still, a black child from another country coming to be a “founder,” who will go under the name of America is*** appropriately, the first born son of her culture out of it.

We’re not saying that a brighter future and more opportunity is not important. We are saying that the two are not mutually exclusive.

It is not unreasonable for us to support our own communities and our own people but simultaneously support different cultures.

In fact, to sincerely support the well-being and cultural survival of the child.

The Hilltop

The Nation’s Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Please do not exceed 500 words and include your name, classification and major.
ARE YOU UP TO THE AMERICORPS CHALLENGE? HEADS UP IS SEEKING HOWARD UNIVERSITY STUDENTS Coed by your own elementary school class $4,500 living stipend (may apply FWIS) $2,362 educational award Leadership skills and teaching experience Immerse yourself in an urban school system Mentor youth and bond with children grades K-8 Have a summer and year like no other! SERVE-LEARN-LEAD Join Today Application priority deadline is March 13, 2009; apply online: http://www.headsupdc.org/involved/AmeriCorps.html For more info contact: mney@headsupdc.org.

HUGS presents the Dingolay Talent show on Thursday, April 9th in the Blackburn Ballroom 7pm-9pm Ipod touch giveaway. $3 members, $5 non-members.

2009 Organization of the Year Stop by Cameron and get your ticket soon for Bison Ball 2009!!!

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THE HILLTOP April 8, 2009

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