

Howard University

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**WEATHER**

 **57**  
47  
**Tomorrow:**  
 **49**  
45

Established  
**1924**

**Monday's Notebook****CAMPUS**

FIND OUT WHICH BUSINESS FRATERNITY WILL SOON HAVE A CHAPTER AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY.

**NATION & WORLD**

READ TO SEE HOW SOMALI PIRATES ATTACKED THE UNITED STATES AT SEA AND CAPTURED THE BOAT'S CAPTAIN.

**SPORTS**

IS THE MADDEN CURSE REAL? NFL PLAYERS ON THE COVER OF THE POPULAR GAME TAKE THE RISK.

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PAGE 4

PAGE 5



Zelena Williams - Staff Photographer

## Annex Dorm Steps on the Competition to Claim the Title

BY ROYCE STRAHAN  
Contributing Writer

Cirque du Soleil was brought from Las Vegas to Howard Saturday as ResFest week came to an end with the step show.

The ladies of the Bethune Annex came out victorious Saturday night in a packed Cramton auditorium and also claimed the ResFest champion title.

ResFest is an annual event that allows students the opportunity to represent their dorms. Every university residence hall sends representatives to compete in various activities throughout the week such as debates, flag football and the step show.

This year, the theme of the step show was "Cirque du Soleil" which gave the audience the feel of being at a circus in Cramton.

Some students had high expectations for their choice to win. "Based on the past two step shows I've been to, I had high expectations for both Drew and

the Quad," said Charles Beavers, a junior political science major. "Coming into the show, I felt the winner would come from one of those two teams."

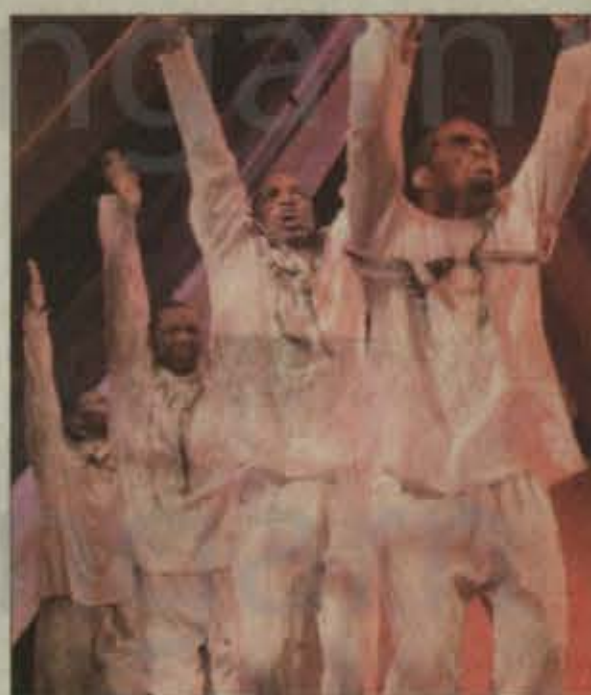
The ladies of the Quad were also a crowd favorite but didn't manage to place, which also caused a reaction from the crowd.

Danielle James, a junior pre-pharmacy major and resident assistant of the Bethune Annex, said how great of a feeling it was to see the ladies of her dorm come out on top.

"I felt the show was great, and the girls deserve the title of first place," she said. "I'm proud of them because they worked really hard and so did their coordinators, Stephanie and Letha."

The ladies of the Annex were a sure thing to win for some students.

"By the end of the show, I knew the Annex was going to win," Beavers said. "Their performance was the complete package. It combined great steps with showmanship and spectacle."



Zelena Williams - Staff Photographer

Drew Hall (above) came in second at the step show and Meridian Hall in third place.

Senior Kaidi McMillan said he was also impressed by the show but for

> See **RESFEST**, page 3

## Gaines Remembered At Memorial Service

BY ROYCE STRAHAN  
Contributing Writer

Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel was filled to capacity Thursday afternoon with friends, family, students and staff to celebrate the life of a person who some refer to as "Auntie Star."

A memorial service was held for the John H. Johnson School of Communications' academic adviser, Sandra L. Gaines, who died April 3 at the age of 43. Students and staff outside of the communications school were in attendance to pay respect to a woman who most considered a social butterfly. Among those in attendance was close friend and colleague, Bernadette Williams.

Williams, senior academic adviser in the School of Communications, shared her memories of the woman she worked closely with for four years in the academic advisor's office.

"Students would refer to me as the old testament and Sandra as the new testament," Williams said when referring to students calling her and Gaines the bible of the School of Communications' advisers. Williams and Gaines worked together to form Sister Stars, which was founded to uplift and encourage the women of Howard University.

A moving moment in the service caused a few in the audience to become overcome with emotion when Williams gave her version of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" for the Sister Stars. As she

expressed her version of the popular nursery rhyme, members of Sister Stars stood throughout the crowd to represent themselves as a star.

Dean Jannette Dates was also in attendance and gave her account of memories she had of Gaines being such an eloquent dresser. Dates expressed how her colleague was known for wearing her brown suits on a regular basis and would enjoy dressing up to go to social events where she could interact with alumni.

In honor of the memory of Gaines, the Sandra Lavelle Gaines Scholarship Fund is being established for undergraduate students enrolled in the John H. Johnson School of Communications with a goal of a minimum of \$5,000 to be awarded the fall of 2009 or spring of 2010.

President of Howard University Student Association, Nicholas Owen, heard about another side of Gaines that students didn't often see at the memorial. "What specifically stood out to me were the personal stories," he said. "We all saw her as an academic adviser who was like a mom that made sure we graduated on time, but we learned about a different side of her from personal stories."

Owen also expressed his method of dealing with the untimely death of Gaines. He said that Gaines wanted to make sure students celebrated life, and even though there's sadness right now, her life should also be celebrated.

Rev. Bernard L. Richardson presided over the service for the beloved adviser who had worked at Howard for nearly 15 years. Before working in the School of Communications, she worked in the financial aid office where she assisted many students with a countless number of issues.

Dates also remembered Gaines as being a very punctual and dedicated person which she said will be truly missed. "She was so dedicated to what she did," Dates said. "You can't replace that type of commitment."

*"She was so dedicated to what she did. You can't replace that type of commitment"*

- Jannette Dates,  
dean of the  
School of Communications

## NHL Wants More Color in the League

BY NATASSHA ROBINSON  
Contributing Writer

As the Boston University Terriers celebrated their 2009 NCAA Men's Division I Hockey championship on Saturday, April 11, there was not a single black player on the team. For many years, the game of hockey has suffered from a lack of diversity.

The game marked the first time that a NCAA championship was awarded on D.C. soil. The Miami of Ohio Redhawks led the Terriers 3-1 with less than two minutes left in the game. However two goals in about 40 seconds sent the game into overtime, where the Terriers were able to win.

There has yet to be a Tiger Woods or an Arthur Ashe figure in hockey that transcends the game's color lines.

"If the black community was exposed to the sport more often, then it might increase awareness. But as of now, I think black people just don't relate to the sport," said Edwim Joyner, a junior physical therapy major.

Gary Bettman, commissioner of the National Hockey League (NHL), has said in various interviews that he is indeed unsatisfied with the number of minorities in the NHL and the lack of minority interest in the sport.

"There's no specific minority per-

centage the league is trying to reach and that for now the NHL simply is trying to make its expensive sport more accessible," said Bettman in an ESPN interview.

A diversified NHL still waits with open arms, as a lack of minority interest and slow minority gain in the NHL begins to raise league awareness.

Since the beginning of hockey, minorities were shunned upon for taking any interest or liking to the sport. It wasn't until Willie O'Ree, the first black

hockey player in the professional ranks, stepped into the scene.

O'Ree played for the Boston Bruins in 1958 and was inducted into the Hall of Fame as the first African-American player. Although he retired at the age of 72, O'Ree still makes it his duty to unite minorities to the game of hockey.

"The NHL has come a very long way from when I played," said O'Ree in

> See **LEAGUE**, page 3



Corinne Dillard - Contributing Photographer

## Paul Robeson Awards Honors Artistic Expression of Students

On Thursday, April 12, Howard University's John H. Johnson School of Communications held its 2009 Paul Robeson Awards. The Paul Robeson Awards, which is held annually by the Department of Radio, Television and Film, awards the artistic expression of those students whose work reflects Paul Robeson's legacy.

In addition, the ceremony also honors distinguished artist in the fields of radio, film, television or audio production. This year's honoree is Academy Award nominated editor and documentary filmmaker, Sam Pollard. His works include "Clockers," "Jungle Fever," "Juice," "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts and Four Little Girls."

For a complete list of the winners, go to thehilltoponline.com.

- Faraday Okoro, Staff Photographer



George Bridges - (MCT)

Boston University beat Miami University of Ohio for the Frozen Four title Saturday in D.C.



# New York Times Offers Career Tips to Students at Corporate Day

BY JONATHAN BRHANE  
Contributing Writer

*The New York Times* Corporate Day, hosted by School of Communications' Adopt-A-Team Program, took place Thursday in the Carnegie Building.

The theme of this event was to "Get to Know the Times." Corporate Day sought out to lend a hand to students to help them succeed at the interviewing process. There were about 20 students in attendance, which created an intimate atmosphere.

The Corporate Day agenda included an interactive interview workshop, a panel discussion, a gift distribution and a reception.

The event featured a panel of four employees from *The New York Times*: Kevin Booth, a 2008 Howard graduate; Matt Haradon, senior human resource consultant; Seth Rogin, vice president of advertising; and Rohanna Thomas, senior recruiter.

The panel began the interview workshop by asking the audience, "What is an employer looking for?"

Thomas said, "An employer is looking for hard skills, willingness and motivation."

She also emphasized the importance of applicant's interests to be genuine.

Thomas said that there is a trend for employers to ask "wacky questions," for example, "If you were a color, what color would you be?"

She said these questions are usually asked so the interviewer can see how one handles things when one is thrown off and advises to answer gracefully and genuinely.

Thomas's key advice for a successful interview is to be prepared. She said that the interviewee must "study for an interview as one would for a test" and to use all resources including the Internet to research the company and one's interviewer.

She also gave some tips about the importance of résumés, saying applicants should know what is in their résumé. She emphasized the importance of always having a fresh resume to give, no matter the

circumstance.

Haradon said interviewers usually ask what are known as behavior interview questions. These are open-ended questions, such as "What would you do if ...?" The interviewee must try to find the behavior the company is looking for and answer accordingly.

Haradon compared an interview to a game of catch, and the interviewee must establish a back and forth rhythm of questions. The interviewer at times will want to see if one can respond well to a curve ball.

He said that one should attempt to make the interview more of a conversation than a straight back and forth line of questioning. He said authenticity in an interview is one of the most crucial factors, when it comes down to who he hires.

Haradon reminded the audience that it's never good to believe one already has the job in the bag.

He summarized his interview tips by saying, "Always be polite, gracious and humble."

Rogin provided the audience

with interview dos and don'ts. He said it is in the interviewee's best interest to make the interviewer more relaxed.

Rogin said that the interviewee must always have questions to ask, and that it is best to save one question for the end of the interview. He said he feels this leaves a positive impression on the interviewer.

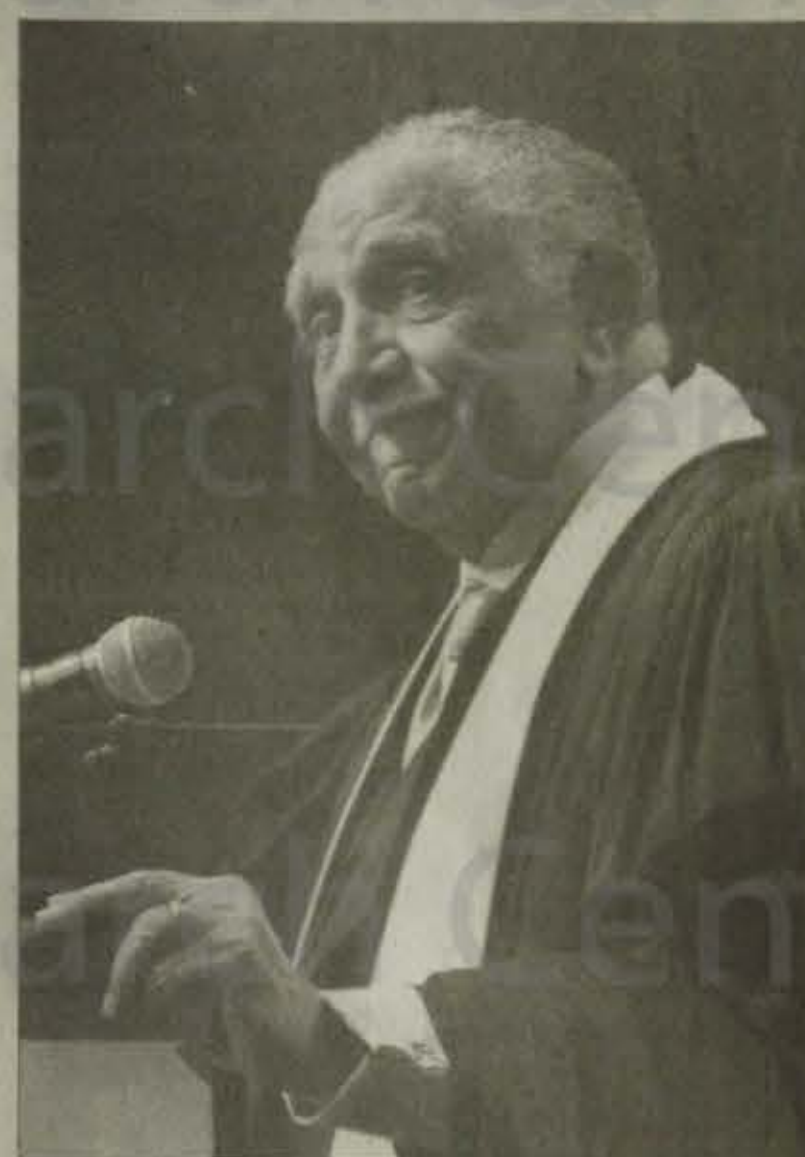
Rogin told the audience to, directly after the interview, hand-write a letter of thanks to one's potential employer, and to make sure he or she has it on their desk the next morning.

During the panel discussion, Booth talked to the audience about how he got to where he is today.

Booth made it a point not to reveal his GPA, but alluded to it being lackluster. He proceeded to encourage the audience, if they are in the same position as he was, to not let that discourage them.

He went in detail of his positive experiences as a member of the 2007 to 2008 *The New York Times* Adopt-A-Team. Booth kept in contact with *The New York Times* staff

## Chapel Recap



Brian Gard • Contributing Photographer

Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery delivered a message to worshippers on Easter, saying that "joy is what Easter is about."

BY SHARELL JARVIS  
Contributing Writer

# New Business Fraternity Chapter Welcomes Students of All Majors

BY LAUREN WOULARD  
Contributing Writer

With more than 100 campus-wide organizations, starting an organization at Howard University comes as no easy task. Coordinating programs, securing faculty advisers and securing funding are just a few of the challenges that one might face in starting a new organization on campus.

These are also some of the challenges faced by a group of Howard University faculty and students in chartering a chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi, Inc. at Howard University.

Alpha Kappa Psi was founded in 1904 and incorporated in 1905 on the campus of New York University. It is the oldest and largest professional business fraternity and is recognized as the premier developer of principled business leaders.

It is chartered at more than 300 campuses in the United States, Canada and United Kingdom, and has more than 200,000 members worldwide. The organization's headquarters are currently in Indianapolis.

The organization is currently undergoing the process of becoming

a recognized student organization on Howard University's campus. The organization is open to students of all majors and has networking opportunities ranging from different campuses, such as Howard, Harvard, Duke, FAMU, Georgetown, American and Virginia State, among others.

So what made students want to get involved in such a huge task? For Whitney Alston, a junior management major and the organization's executive vice president, knowing that it was open to everyone was something that really sparked her interest.

"I questioned it at first, because of an already existing organization, but when I heard it was open to all majors that quickly changed my mind," said Alston. "I know plenty of people who aren't business majors who would like to be part of an organization like this, from previous conversations I've had with students."

Some students are very optimistic about the future success of the organization on Howard's campus, as others hope they will rise above the many challenges the organization will face. Jewel Burks, School of Business president-elect, said she

is very excited about the future of Alpha Kappa Psi here at Howard University.

"I don't know too much about the organization," said Burks, "but I do believe since it's a new organization, it will stay focused on the core principles and values of the organization, rather than some organizations here on Howard's campus."

Getting the word out about Alpha Kappa Psi will be a tremendous challenge for the organization's leaders.

"Because they're new, they will be competing with more popular and familiar groups on campus, so they really have to do a good job on promoting to the students," said Morgan Winbush, a junior advertising major. "I think so many students will be interested in helping to make this organization successful because everyone wants to feel as if they've played a part in the success of an organization."

Thursday night, Alpha Kappa Psi's leaders and advisers hosted an informational meeting in Blackburn at 7 p.m. This was the time for prospective members to hear directly from their leaders and gain information about the organization. Students heard about its history, ways

they can get involved in becoming a member and the objective of the organization.

Mycal Carr, who serves as the organization's director of finance, believes it's the organization's open environment that makes it so unique. "It is an open environment that interacts and encourages individuals from all walks of life to better their professional business skills through continued growth and networking throughout the organization," said Carr. "I must say I've been really pleased with the outcome and the number of students who have shown interest."

Though the road ahead will not be easy for this organization's leaders, it is the success that will come from it that motivates and pushes them forward.

"I think that this organization has so much potential and so much to give," said Alston. "It has been a tough and long challenge like starting any organization would be, but it will pay off in the end."

For more information on the organization and how to become a part of it, students can visit akpsi.org, or visit the informational tables in the lower level of Blackburn.

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hilltopcampus@gmail.com.

Sunday chapel services are filled with traditional church hymns, praise, answer and call and an overall great worshiping experience. Easter Sunday embodied all of those elements and a little bit more.

The Andrew Rankin Memorial Choir directed by Ned Lewis, led the congregation in several spirituals and songs of worshiping such as "Christ the Lord Has Risen Today" and "Because He Lives."

Following the lighting of the unity candle and the call to worship, the Psalter reading, taken from Psalm 113 was led.

Dean of the chapel, Bernard L. Richardson, Ph.D., welcomed the audience and praised everyone for attending the service, including Howard University's president Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D., and wife Paula Whetsel Ribeau, Ph.D.

Richardson introduced the special guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery. Lowery delivered the morning sermon with an optimistic perspective for "a new and exciting journey on intellectual excellence."

Lowery is a cofounder and chairman emeritus of the Black Leadership Forum and president of the Atlanta based, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He preached to the near capacity audience in Cramton Auditorium, beginning his sermon with appreciation and admiration for Howard University, its family and community.

"I know we're in Howard University, but is Howard University in you?" Lowery asked the audience, aiming to encourage the Howard community to recognize and remember what the foundation and legacy is of the great academia institution.

After offering his gratitude for his invitation to speak, Lowery acknowledged what this historic Easter means to African-American people.

"Someone asked me what does it mean to have a black president," he said. "I told them I don't know. I can only speculate the greatness ahead to come."

Lowery shared his feelings toward President Barack Obama's family image. "President Obama demonstrates the commitment of family," said Lowery.

Easter represents the rise of Christ, and Lowery said the congregation should take this time to self reflect, find a deeper meaning of love and respect for others as well as ourselves.

"Man should respect woman. Woman should respect man," he said. "Loving, serving God, that's the model that Barack shows with his family."

Lowery then said that African-Americans should take more pride in themselves and have greater aspirations.

"Too long have we let athletics super exceed academics," Lowery said.

Lowery didn't suggest that sports should be given up entirely; rather, more importance should be placed on the value of education. Lowery said we should "honor academics with awards," the same way sports are honored.

Chapel services always generate a crowd with familiar faces, made up mostly by the Howard community, but there were several newcomers.

Melissa Canney from Vermont attended chapel this Sunday for the first time. "A friend of mind goes to Howard and he invited me to come," Canney said.

Canney said this was her first time really watching people openly express their delight for the service. "I'm catholic, and so we worship a little differently. It was a great experience to come," she said.

District of Columbia resident Joy Michaels said this is his first time in years going to church, but he felt moved to attend chapel services this morning.

"I never go to church," Michaels said. "I might watch on TV sometimes, but I figure this was a historic Easter, so I should attend."

"Joy is what Easter is about," Lowery said. "Easter means a new birth."

He said the congregation should "embark on a intellectual pursuit of family values."



# STUDENT PARKING REGISTRATION FOR AY 2009-2010 APRIL 15-17, 2009

April 15, 2009

Seniors and Graduate Students.....Apply Only  
Third Year Law Students.....Apply Only



April 16, 2009

Juniors and Sophomore Students.....Apply Only  
Second Year Law Students.....Apply Only

April 17, 2009

Open to all students  
(Including second year law students)  
(Not including freshman or first year law students)

Apply Online (BisonWeb)  
9:00 AM until all available spaces have been taken.

Register online: [www.howard.edu/bisonweb](http://www.howard.edu/bisonweb)

The Office of Parking & Shuttle Operations strongly encourages all students to read the rules and regulations form that is signed during vehicle registration.

## Eligibility

Students in good standing with no outstanding citations, holds or balances  
Students must be registered for fall 2009 classes by June 30, 2009 to retain parking

Parking and Shuttle Operations

(202) 806-2000

## HOWARD UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALL RESIDENTS

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

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GRADUATING CLASS OF 2009

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HOST AND HOSTESSES  
COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE

**This is an excellent way to gain RSVP points for housing  
next year...Sign up for the  
2009 Commencement Committee  
at the front desk of your residence hall.**



# ResFest Week Comes to a Close With an Annex Win

*continued from* FRONT, RESFEST

a different reason, saying, "It was a pretty good show in my opinion. The thing that stood out to me the most is that it started on time, which is shocking at Howard."

R.A.M.P.A.G.E. Dance Team and the Bionettes also performed during the show along with J.T., who was introduced by host Jae Murphy as Steve Harvey's nephew. Rapper J.T. received a standing ovation when he announced that he was singing his last song after a lack of crowd partici-

pation and boos throughout the crowd.

During the final intermission to tally up the scores for the show, representatives from each dorm went to the stage to battle each other, but the final battle had been won by the Annex. The gentlemen of Drew Hall came in second place and Meridian placed third.

Spotlight Network will air "2009 Royal Rumble Expect the Unexpected" on Wednesday at 8 p.m. on Resnet Channel 4. The show will include interviews with ResFest participants and highlights for the events.

# Boston University Freezes Out Redhawks to Win Title

*continued from* FRONT, LEAGUE

a *Boston Globe* interview. "These kids just need a chance and need more exposure to the sport."

In 1997, the NHL formed a Diversity Task Force, headed by O'Ree, to create more minority programs in inner cities across the country. According to NHL.com, the NHL doesn't provide money, but it does however assist in fundraising and provides each program with access to used equipment. As a result, children pay only about \$40 per year to join one of the programs and are provided with equipment and ice time.

"The NHL would have more success if they do more promotion of the minority players. They already have and aren't worried about recruiting new ones," said Brittany Sims, a junior public relations major. "I think black people would be interested in the 'Lebron' of hockey than a whole bunch of no-name people."

Currently, there are only 49 minorities in the NHL, and of that 49 only 32 have a secure

permanent spot on the 2008-09 season roster.

"Considering I don't know of any players in the NHL, and especially any black ones, I think it might be really hard to get Howard or any black college for that matter to adapt to the sport and start a league," said Kyline Hanley, a junior education and English major. "When you can't name anyone who plays the sport, it's harder to push for the sport and create interest in it [hockey]."

Other Howard students agree with Hanley on the issue of Howard creating their own ice hockey team. Marlon Simpson, a senior political science major, believes that no one would attend a hockey game here at Howard.

"If we had a hockey team, I know I wouldn't go to the games. It's bad enough the only games people really attend are football and basketball games," said Simpson. "The other sports we have are under recognized, so imagine a hockey team."

# Look for Sigma Gamma Rho and Zeta Phi Beta Probate Pictures in Tuesday's Hilltop

## HOWARD UNIVERSITY'S NEW PHI BETA KAPPA MEMBERS CONGRATULATIONS

The Office of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer commends Howard University's 2009 inductees into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. We proudly recognize these 57 students from the College of Arts and Sciences who were selected for membership in Howard University's Phi Beta Kappa Gamma of the District of Columbia Chapter. Their outstanding academic achievements and service make them exemplars of Howard University's finest academic traditions. I also commend the many faculty members whose instruction and mentorship contributed to the students' academic achievements.

Alvin Thornton, Ph.D.  
Interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer

### Gamma of the District of Columbia Phi Beta Kappa Members In Course 2009

Kristen Janay Alston  
Kellsie N. Barton-Millar  
Michael Alphonso Benjamin, Jr.  
Candace Alisha Benoit  
Natasha D. Block  
Kristen A. Bushnell  
Felicia S. Carter  
Spencer Alexander Carter  
Cristin Cain Chall  
Shayna Nicole Cook  
Evelena Cecelia Cousin-Peterson  
Renee Alecia Davis  
Jheanelle Nickale Dawkins  
Lauren M. Evans  
Samuel Peter Francis  
Ciara Chantel Gimblet  
Sadora Maureen Guillaume  
Athar Haseebullah  
Renee Anthony Henderson, Jr.  
Chakia Howard  
Anwar Davis Jackson  
Lizeth Charleta Lewis  
Marley Henry Lisboa  
Mikhaela Miriam Mc Nicolls  
Paul Matthew McClellan  
Kelly Melrose McCray  
Sean Eric Mickens  
Amber Nicol Moody  
Lindsay Deanna Moore

Maria Morales  
Jessica Mortime  
Shamira A. Muhammad  
Damion Anthony Myers  
Deanna Marie Nara  
Jeanette Eileen Owusu  
Antonia Lennise Phillip  
Christian Lamar Plummer  
Markeiya Tre'nise Polite  
Rachel Mechelle Potter  
Krystle Giselle Jameela Robinson  
Alison Canada Rollins  
Jahaan A. Shaheed  
Warren Eugene Simmons  
Dominic Alan Smith  
Vince M. Solomon  
Kandis Mariee Stubblefield  
Ameena Asha Sweeting  
Harry O. Taylor  
Valencia Caroline Thurman  
Jenna Felixcia Toussaint  
Manoj CL George Varghese  
Jordee M. Wells  
Chelsea A. Whittler  
Danielle Cherie Williams  
Elizabeth K. Williams  
Vincia Marcelle Woods  
Ramy Said Zamzam



## A Hostage Situation



BY EDWARD WILLIAMS  
Contributing Columnist

As I watched the unfolding of the hostage situation in the seas near Somalia, where an American captain was being held by armed pirates, I have been forced to contemplate the reality of American power, values and political susceptibility.

The captain, who was being held by the pirates, reportedly sacrificed himself so that his crew and ship could be released, after a power struggle between the armed Somalians and the unarmed crew members.

I must pause to applaud the audacity of both the captain and the crew in this situation; this example of American bravery draws a similar feeling of patriotism as when our country united after 9/11.

In the last few days, two United States Navy warships have arrived in the area with a third arriving shortly after, but even with all of the military might, there is little to nothing that the warships could do, or were willing to do, as the captain and the pirates were sitting on the water in a small enclosed lifeboat.

While watching coverage of the situation, a viewer called in to comment about how this situation must look to other countries, two navy warships powerless compared to four armed pirates in a small lifeboat.

This thought is initially mind-wrenching, but then consider that all of this military might is being exhibited over one man, which speaks to the premium that the United States places on human life.

The human right to live is at the heart of our American core values and is the only viable reason why we did not initially capture or destroy the small lifeboat. Other countries may look at this situation as an exhibition of weakness, but it is difficult for me to see this as anything less than the truest exhibition of American strength.

Being the largest country or having the largest military has never been the sole driver for the United States' influence in the world; instead it is the fact that we display a character worthy of being emulated, well more often than not.

This difficult situation also draws a hard line in the sand between the place where diplomacy can and cannot be successful. Somalia is effectively a lawless country, having no established government or ruling body.

These pirates fall into the same battle dynamics as the terrorists of Al Qaeda; we have no way of distinguishing them from the other citizens of a country, they place less value on life than we do, and there is little to no political tactic that can be effective.

In the very near future, America must find a way to fight this kind of enemy, either through some technological or militaristic advancement.

Hopefully, President Obama will be able to use this situation off the coast of Somalia to draw renewed international support against terrorists, whether they are on land or sea.

The rescue of Capt. Phillips was more akin to a James Bond film than a real life situation: Navy seals shot and killed three pirates, Capt. Phillips jumps for dear life, and the USS Bainbridge moves in for the rescue.

The heroism and will to live displayed by Capt. Phillips and the steadfastness in America's core values is encouraging and has given me another reason to be proud to be an American.

*Edward is a senior international business major from Savannah, Ga. He is a devout follower of political news with a keen eye for analyzing how things work in the political community.*

# Somali Pirates Face-Off Against The World's Greatest Powers



A boarding team from the guided missile destroyer, USS Winston S. Churchill, approaches a suspected pirate vessel to conduct a boarding and inspection at sea on Jan. 21.

Kenneth Anderson / US Navy News / KRT (MCT)

BY AUSTIN THOMPSON  
Contributing Writer

Obama administration officials are working to increase the international "anti-piracy" task force off the Somali coast, after U.S. commandos freed Capt. Richard Phillips Sunday and killed most of the pirates holding him hostage.

The four-day face-off began when a group of Somali men commandeered a United States-flagged container ship with 20 American crew members. The other crew members also escaped unharmed.

The Somali captors had been in an out-of-gas lifeboat, surrounded by U.S. naval warships who worked to prevent reinforcements from reaching the lifeboat.

Recent months have been particularly lucrative for young Somali men, who hijacked dozens of foreign vessels and earned millions of dollars in ransom in a country struggling with war, poverty and foreign occupation.

The collapse of the Somali central government in 1991 left a power vacuum and turned its land and sea into "lawless" areas battled over by competing clans, warlords and the U.S. military.

Since then, dozens of foreign fleets have taken advantage of the lack of security and stolen millions of dollars worth of resources from Somali waters.

Estimates say that more than \$300,000,000 in seafood are looted by foreign trawlers every year. Many of the so-called pirates are former fishermen who have turned to piracy, as fish stocks are depleted by over-exploitation.

Other Somali men site the illegal dumping of nuclear waste near the shores of the Somali coast. European ships have allegedly been dumping vast barrels of nuclear waste into the ocean. According to local reports, the coastal population began suffering strange rashes, nausea and radiation sickness leading to death.

"We don't consider ourselves sea bandits; we consider sea bandits those who illegally fish in our seas and dump waste in our seas and carry weapons in our seas," said spokesman Sugule Ali in an interview with the *New York Times*. "We are simply patrolling our seas. Think of us like a coast guard."

Justin Knight has been following the story of Somali fishermen closely and sending e-mails to raise awareness among his friends. Knight said a lot of

families are depending on the money piracy brings home to stimulate the economy back home.

"When you snatch the way of life from a people, and make them dependent on foreign aid, you also make them slaves in a free-market system. It is emasculating for Somali men to attack them in this way," said Knight.

Recent research conducted in Somalia appears to support Knight's observations. The independent Somali news site, *WardherNews*, conducted a poll and found that 70 percent of ordinary Somalis polled, "strongly supported the piracy as a form of national defence of the country's territorial waters."

Knight also finds it unfair that the U.S. media often neglects the Somali side of the debate and over-simplifies events in the region.

"I guess it is a lot easier to paint these men as monsters rather than show an authentic portrayal of who they really are and why they are acting as they do. It is obvious they are seeking retribution," Knight said.

The harsh social realities on the ground in Somalia have not deterred the vitriol and hatred many Americans feel toward Somali men who engage in piracy.

"Evil and death and sin do not have the final say...That is the essential message of Easter," said Rev. Charles Danielson, the pastor of rescued Capt. Richard Phillips.

The U.S. and international military forces have sworn to take more aggressive action off the African coast to protect their economic interests in the region. A U.N. Security Council resolution, pushed through by the U.S., allows the U.S. military and its coalition allies to intervene by "all necessary means" to stop interference by the "pirates."

Sunday's murder and capture of the Somali attackers may be a sign of future events off the coast of Somalia.

It is approximated that 13 percent of Middle Eastern oil and gas passes through the Somalia coast route, and the Gulf of Aden remains the busiest trading route in the world.

## MOTHERLAND MONDAYS

### Country Spotlight: Cape Verde

Cape Verde is a group of islands that used to be a Portuguese colony. It is made up of 10 islands and five islets. Located off the coast of West Africa, it has very few natural resources and is heavily dependent on food imports.

During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, there were severe droughts throughout the land that caused the deaths of 200,000 people and prompted heavy emigration. The droughts cut the islands' grain crop by 80 percent. Even though in 2002 the government appealed for international food aid, Cape Verde has a higher per capita income than many other African nations. The country became independent in 1975. In 1991, they held their first free presidential elections.

Information courtesy of BBC.com  
Compiled by Jada F. Smith, Nation & World Editor



### Continental Briefs

- A U.S. judge has ruled to allow lawsuits against several companies accused of helping South Africa's apartheid-era government. IBM, Ford and General Motors are a few of the corporations expected to face demands for damages from thousands of apartheid victims. Those pursuing the lawsuits argue that the firms supplied equipment used by the South African security forces to suppress dissent.
- Zimbabwe's economic planning minister says Zimbabwe's national currency will remain suspended for at least one year, following the legalization of foreign currencies. The eradication of Zimbabwean currencies and the shift toward U.S. dollars has caused consumer prices to steadily fall for three months in a row.
- According to BBC.com, a recent report says that in the first nine months of 2008, 1,000 people died of violence in Nigeria's oil region. The unrest has caused Nigeria's oil output to be cut by 25 percent in recent years. President Umaru Yar'Adua released a statement last week saying his government is considering granting amnesty to violent groups if they disarm.
- More than \$1 billion has been pledged by international donors for the upgrade and upkeep of transportation links across East and Southern Africa. The North-South Corridor initiative will aim to get goods to market faster and cheaper with improved infrastructure and efficient border crossings. If successful, the project will raise the living standard for millions of people.
- Supporters of Marc Ravalomanana, the former president of Madagascar, have pulled out of talks aimed at bringing an end to the country's political crisis. They say the U.N. representative did not fulfill his role as an impartial mediator, and they do not like the way negotiations were being run.

Information Courtesy of BBC.com  
Compiled by Jada F. Smith, Nation & World Editor



# WHUR Sponsors 18-Year-Old Black NASCAR Driving Sensation

BY RYAN FOSTER  
Contributing Writer

Recently making his debut in the prestigious Nationwide Cup in Bristol, Tennessee, Marc Davis, competed in the 150-mile race in the #36 Toyota Camry, splashed with WHUR and Howard University logos.

With a professional racing career beginning at the age of 13, Silver Spring, Md. native, Davis, is the only African-American driver and owner in the National Association Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR).

Davis is only 18 years old, also making him one of the youngest drivers in the professional racing arena.

WHUR 96.3 FM and Howard University are the first (and only) African-American station and HBCU to sponsor a NASCAR driver.

A personal interest in racing between a couple of WHUR staff members served as the basis of Davis' eventual sponsorship. Jim Watkins, WHUR general manager, recalled the incident at the Pocono Raceway that introduced the station to the idea of sponsoring a NASCAR driver.

"Myself and another member of the station were up at Pocono seeing a race and ended up meeting with the owner [Joe Gibbs]," Watkins said. "He introduced the initiative the raceway was starting, aimed toward catering to diversity in racing - reaching out to African-Americans and other minorities."

After the conversation, Watkins adopted Gibbs' mission and decided to introduce the WHUR audience to the world of NASCAR.

A press conference was arranged; the station invited the family of legendary African-American driver Wendell Scott, and also a 17-year-old boy from Maryland, who was rumored to be on the forefront of his racing game, Marc Davis.

"After the conference, when we had observed how well he handled himself, we decided to try and become a part of his development," Watkins said. "We were presented an offer we couldn't refuse, and so began our sponsorship."



Photo Courtesy of wikipedia.org

Marc Davis, 18, is sponsored by WHUR 96.3 FM. He is the only black driver in NASCAR.

Davis, who at the time had signed a six-year contract with Joe Gibbs Racing, has acquired a significant amount of attention for the station as he continues to advance in his racing career.

In each race, the car and uniforms worn by both Davis and his pit crew are covered in WHUR-Howard University insignia, sometimes sharing space with other sponsors.

From a marketing standpoint, Davis has introduced more of the local audience to WHUR, and hopefully garnered the station more listeners, expanding the WHUR brand.

"A car's engine can run about \$50,000, while the rest of the car can easily amount to about \$120,000," Watkins said. "If there's a wreck and the car is totaled, he has to pay for it; so he needs as many sponsors as he can get. Remember we're a radio station, not a multi-national corporation," Watkins said.

Since Davis' introduction to

WHUR, the station has partially sponsored more than a dozen of his races.

With access to his schedule, the station regularly schedules Davis for appearances at various schools and universities in the area, ranging from an 18th birthday celebration at the station this past summer to participation in an upcoming student led symposium Tuesday in Cramton.

"Driven to Succeed: The NASCAR Experience" will include Davis, along with representatives of NASCAR Consumer Marketing and WHUR 96.3, joining to educate Howard students about available opportunities in the world of NASCAR, free of charge to the Howard University community.

"I hope Marc Davis can serve as an example to other young people," Watkins said. "Someone that looks like you is doing amazing things in NASCAR, and even if you don't want to be a driver, you can get involved too."

## NASCAR Kinetics Speeds Through With Panel

BY BRITNEY BREWINGTON  
Contributing Writer

National Association Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) strives to promote diversity within its organization and throughout the motor sport industry, and they are bringing their efforts to Howard.

On April 14 at 6:30 p.m., the Howard University NASCAR Kinetics team will host a free panel, "Driven to Succeed: The NASCAR Experience." The panel, which will be held in the auditorium lounge in the lower level of Cramton, will allow students to be informed about the world of NASCAR.

Jamela Joseph, a member of the Howard NASCAR Kinetics team, said she feels that this panel is necessary for students looking to land a job after college and to also know how Howard is involved with NASCAR.

"NASCAR is huge, and we feel it is important for people to know about the many opportunities they have to offer," said Joseph. "We also thought it would be exciting to hear from a young driver who is sponsored by WHUR and Howard University."

Those in attendance will be able to network with the panelists concluding the event. There will also be a question and answer portion at the end of the panel for students to ask questions as well as refreshments.

Members of the Kinetics team will also be there to lead NASCAR trivia, drawings and prizes.

Sports management major and member of the kinetics team, Ron Thurston, said he hopes students walk away with valuable information from this event.

"The people from the panel have hands-on experience at the NASCAR headquarters and driving in Sprint Cup Series races. Hopefully, people will come as explorers for the sport and will leave as fans of NASCAR," Thurston said.

In an effort to further bring diversity to NASCAR, the NASCAR Kinetics team was created. Comprised of five Howard students, these individuals all have an interest in the sports industry.

Since January 2009, they have been involved with the NASCAR Kinetics "Marketing in Motion" competition.

The competition allows students to gain marketing experience through the NASCAR organization.

Team captain and sports management major, Kara Adams, said she wants everyone to understand that NASCAR is more than just a "southern sport."

"I would like students to understand that there is more to NASCAR than what they believe it to be due to the stigma," said Adams.

Members of the team, called "Brand Ambassadors," are responsible for completing case studies given by NASCAR as well as implementing their own initiatives on campus.

"It's not just a southern hick sport. NASCAR is a money-making industry with endless opportunities," Adams said.

The chair of the HHPLS department, Doris Corbett, Ph.D., is the advisor for the kinetics team. Four other schools, Central Michigan University, Clark Atlanta University, University of Texas Pan American and Winston-Salem State University, are involved in the competition as well.

The panel will include Marc Davis, WHUR sponsored owner and driver; Talia Mark, NASCAR national account executive of consumer marketing; Brandon Thompson, senior account executive of diversity affairs; and Tracy Jackson, former NASCAR account executive for Just Marketing.

WHUR representatives and former interns will also share their experience in NASCAR.

Dedicated to spreading the word about the NASCAR organization, the Kinetics team will also host a free viewing party on April 18 in Drew Hall Lounge for the Phoenix International Subway Fresh Fit 500 race.

There will be free food, games, a raffle, giveaways, prizes and a DJ.

"Even if you're not interested in NASCAR, people should find it to be a fun and unique environment, and there will be something there for everyone," Joseph said.

# NFL Players Who Grace the Madden Cover Suffer the 'Curse'

BY JACQUELYN ROSS  
Contributing Writer

Since emerging onto the video game market in 1988, EA Sports' Madden NFL has become one of the most popular video games of all time.

In 2007, Madden broke records by selling 2 million units during the game's first week.

"I play Madden every day," said Domenico Smith, a sophomore economics major, while actually playing the game. "Every chance I get, I'm playing Madden."

Credited for having some of the most realistic graphics and the best game plays available, Madden has become a staple in the lives of football fanatics.

"It has better features than all the rest," said Adim Obata, a sophomore defensive lineman at Furman University. "Games like [NFL] 2K8 were good, but it wasn't Madden good. It's almost like a brand. If you're not playing Madden, you're not playing a real football game."

A consistent best-seller, Madden NFL is one of the few video games with a world outside of the console. Since 1995, each year the Madden Bowl has taken place in the hosting Super Bowl city, where NFL players gather to compete against each other and see who has the best skills on the game.

The winner of the competition gets credited in the next season's Madden NFL. The game has even had its own show on ESPN2 where they follow the top

Madden players during tournaments.

Each year, in addition to the tournaments and upgraded graphic content, avid Madden supporters wait to see who will be chosen to grace the game's box cover.

Although the deal normally pays its cover athlete about \$100,000 to \$200,000, it also involves a different price - or as some call it, a "curse."

Since John Madden stopped appearing on the cover in 1999, every player who has been the cover athlete has been either injured during that season or suffered from a lackluster performance, thus creating the Madden "curse."

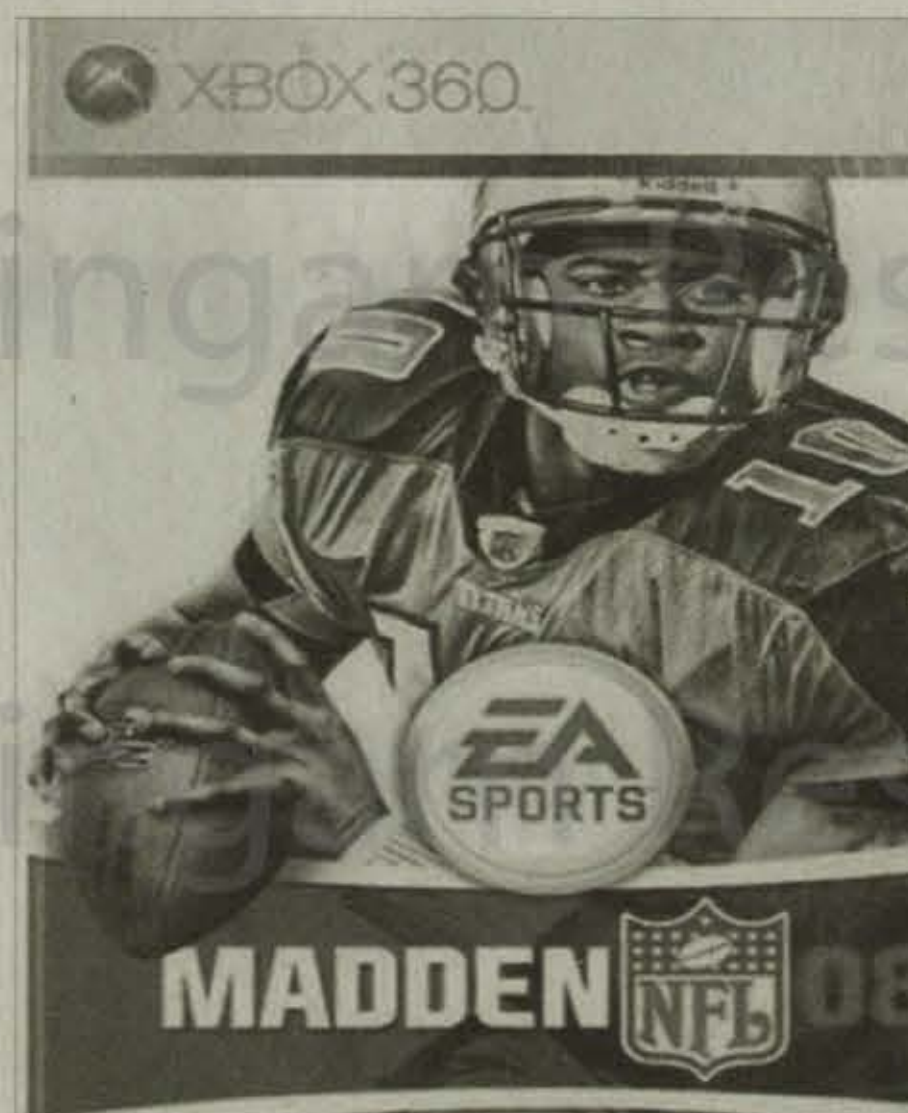
"Of course I believe in the curse," said Darryl Kemp, a sophomore psychology major. "Every person on [the cover] gets hurt. It's a guarantee."

For example, 2002 cover athlete Daunte Culpepper, former Minnesota Vikings' quarterback, suffered a knee injury and threw only 14 touchdown passes in contrast to his 40 touchdown passes in the previous season, resulting in one of the worst records for the Vikings in 20 years.

Similarly, Donovan McNabb, 2006 Madden cover athlete, was victim to a sports hernia, and after only 10 games was forced to end the season.

Other cover athletes involved in the Madden "curse" include Michael Vick in 2004, Ray Lewis in 2005, Shaun Alexander in 2007, Vince Young in 2008 and Brett Favre in 2009.

Despite the outstanding evidence,



Vince Young (left) and Brett Favre (right) were the last two players to appear on the cover of the Madden video game. The four finalists for next year's cover are Brandon Jacobs, Ben Roethlisberger, Adrian Peterson and Ed Reed. The winner will be announced on April 24.

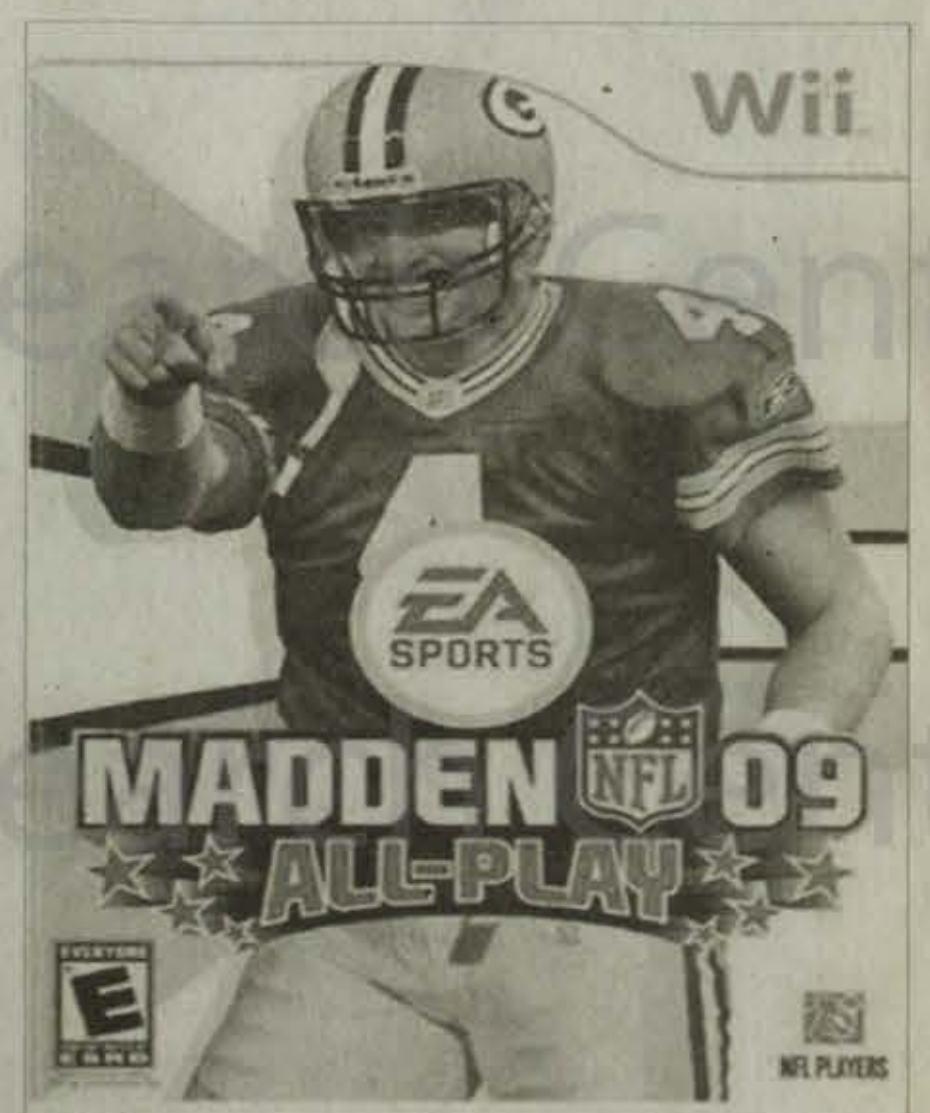


Photo Courtesy of madden.com

EA Sports does not believe the "curse" actually exists.

Senior product manager of the Madden NFL franchise, Anthony Stevenson, responded to the curse accusations via e-mail.

"While we don't believe in the Madden 'curse,' we think it is fantastic that

there is so much enthusiasm around the Madden NFL franchise, that fans have made so much of this. It certainly makes for great conversation."

Regardless of the Madden "curse," being chosen as the cover athlete to one of the most popular sports games out is still looked upon as a privilege and

mark of success.

"I would love to one day be on the cover of Madden," said Neal Pogue, a sophomore defensive tackle for Jackson State University. "Hopefully, I could be the one to break the curse. And even if not, it's just an honor in itself. It's like saying you've made it."

## TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

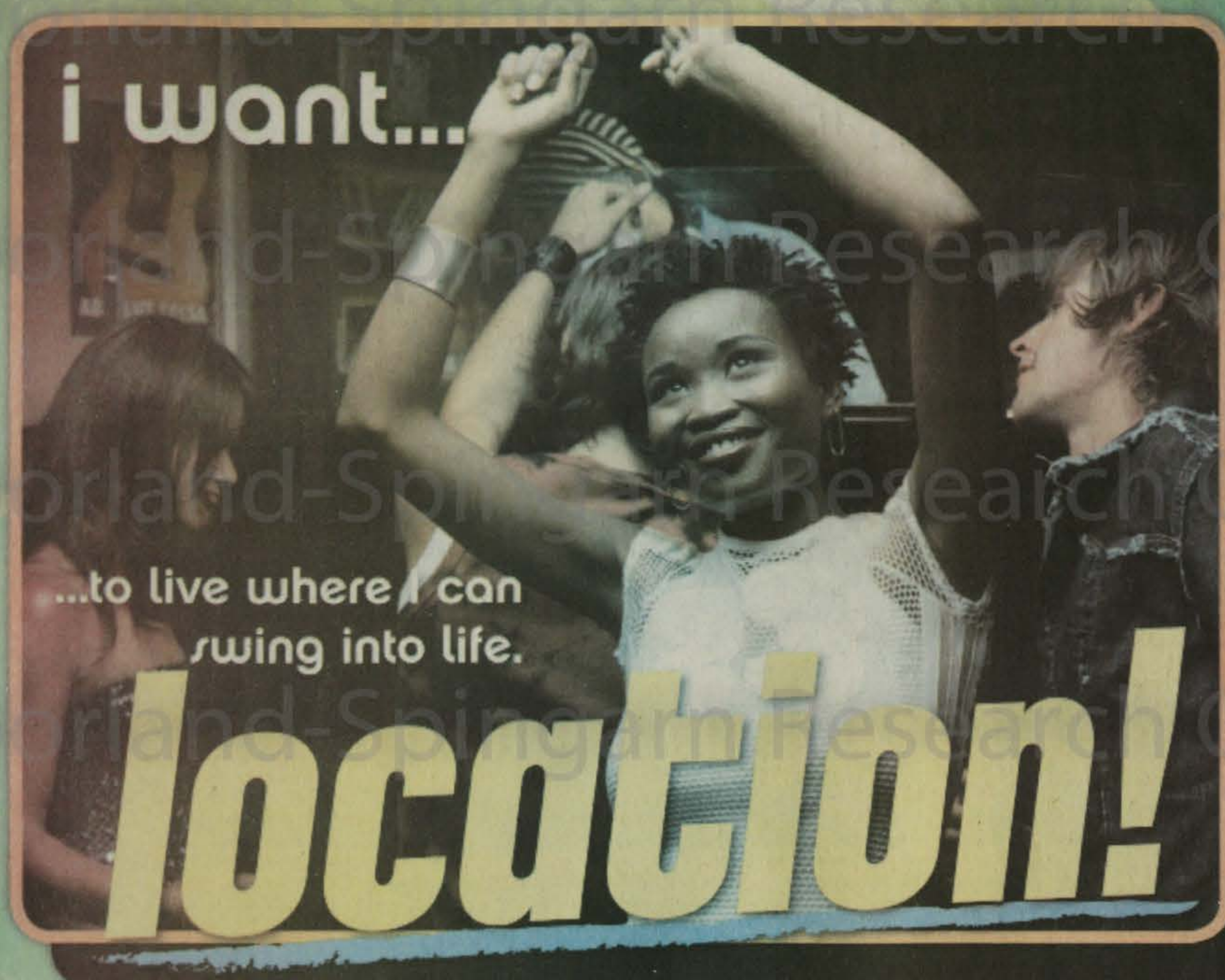
April 13, 1980

United States boycotts the Summer Olympics at Moscow.

Sports Trivia!  
Which stadium became the permanent site for the NFL's Pro Bowl in 1980?

Answer:  
Aloha Stadium in Honolulu.





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- +++ Roof top Pool with Tanning Deck
- +++ Connected to UTC Independence Plaza
- +++ Restaurant, shops & entertainment on-site
- +++ Shuttle Bus to and From University of Maryland
- +++ Student Computer Center w/ Internet & Printer
- +++ Poker Lounge and Game Room w/ Pool Tables, Foosball Table, Ping Pong Table, 2 Movie Projectors and 6 Plasma TVs
- +++ Electronic Key Access System
- +++ Turbo Stand-Up Tanning Beds
- +++ Washer/Dryer Unit in Every Apartment
- +++ 24-Hour Emergency Maintenance
- +++ Walking Distance to Metro Station
- +++ 24-Hour Courtesy Officer on Duty
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- +++ Electricity included\*
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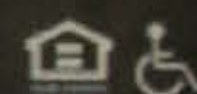
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Why does my hoody say sold?

I dunno but I bet it's the same reason they sold my hair...



Charles Metzger - Cartoonist

## Parking Lots, Pay-offs and Howard's Bad Business

Last week, students who utilize the parking lot behind the West Towers were informed the parking lot was going to be closed and that they needed to move their cars before they were towed. Subsequently, it was announced that the parking lot was closing and being sold to the apartment complex that has just been built behind the dormitory.

The closing of the parking lot is just a string of other inconveniences occurring as Howard falls victim to the failing economy and university budget cuts. Students need to prepare. Not only is this a problem for students who were assigned parking there this year, but it will continue to catapult into a bigger problem as we move into Fall 2009. Parking is already limited. There isn't enough parking to accommodate students every year. Now with the closing of a major lot, students will be forced to seek other options. Not to mention that students paid money -

close to \$300 a year - to park in that specific parking lot, only to be told a month before spring se-

### Our View:

*The closing of the West Tower's Parking Lot is just another inconvenience for students and an indication of Howard's financial crisis.*

mester ends that they would need to park somewhere else. In what world is that OK?

There are also plans in motion to sell the Howard Center Parking lot, which is the largest parking lot on the campus. Thus, students who are not graduating seniors should invest in some

good walking shoes and get used to riding the Metro, because there is simply not going to be enough room to commute to campus and park once Howard is done selling the little bit of land it has left.

Of course, some changes will be necessary considering the current state of the economy. Parking lots are hardly a necessity, just an amenity, but much of the problem with this situation and with the way business is run at Howard University is that students are left completely unaware of what is happening, why it is happening, and where the money is going. Students

were notified only a few days in advance as to the parking lot closing and no ample explanation was given as to why the lot was closing. If Howard University is in some dire financial crisis, whether they will be selling lots, dorms, or academic programs the tuition-paying students would like to know.

## Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

**CORRECTION:** In the Thursday's issue of 'The Hilltop', the article "More Furlough Days Predicted by Faculty" incorrectly stated that "Philosophy professor Charles Verharen, Ph.D. said Board of Trustee members — who control Howard University — protested the outcries of students and are out of touch with the university. Specifically, Howard Board of Trustee member John Thain, also CEO of Merrill Lynch and Co., is profiting from the bailout money." Verharen did not say this statement. The statement was actually made by a protestor.

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Now in its 84th year, *The Hilltop* is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, *The Hilltop* is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of the The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

*The Hilltop* reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.



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*Come join the Howard University Health Professions Society for our last general body meeting on Monday, April 13th from 5:30-7 PM in the Blackburn Forum. Elections will be held and our annual Recognition Ceremony will take place. T-shirts and USB wristbands are still on sale for a combined price of \$10. Refreshments will be served.*

Are you interested in working on the 2009-2010 Bison Yearbook Staff? Apply today for your chance to work for the Bison Yearbook. Applications are available in the Student Activities Office of Blackburn Center. Applications are due 4/22/2009.

Need a summer job? The Prince George's County Department of Parks & Recreation Aquatics team has something for everyone! Now hiring lifeguards, swim instructors, pool managers, customer service representatives and more. Lifeguards start at \$9.30/hour. E-mail [PG-Aquatics@pgparks.com](mailto:PG-Aquatics@pgparks.com) or call 301-249-8880.

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## A CALL TO CONTRIBUTE To Howard University's Self-Study Report!!



## Another Opportunity to Participate in Howard University's Renewal!

Howard University's Reaffirmation for Accreditation by The Middle States Commission On Higher Education

\*ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS/LUNCH

Tuesday, April 14, 2009 • 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm  
Blackburn Center Ballroom

*\*Participants should select areas of interests from the Self-Study Report for Roundtable Discussions and Interaction with Self-Study Work Group Chairs*

Review the Self Study Report and post your comments at [www.gs.howard.edu/middle\\_states](http://www.gs.howard.edu/middle_states)  
Come prepared to ask questions  
For more information, contact the Self-Study Office at (202) 238-2495 or [HUSelf-Study@howard.edu](mailto:HUSelf-Study@howard.edu)



# What To Do @ HU

## PRESENTING... PRESIDENT SIDNEY A. RIBEAU



The week-long celebration of the inauguration of Howard University's 16th president starts Monday with all-day discussions and planning around his Students First Campaign and ends with a day of community service. Sandwiched in between are a jazz concert, Abraham Lincoln, an authors' reception, a tribute to John Hope Franklin and other events. For a complete listing, see <http://www.howard.edu/ribeau-inauguration/events.htm>.

## SOUL OF A WARRIOR

Howard University graduate Paula Giddings discusses the remarkable Ida B. Wells-Barnett, a fearless anti-lynching crusader, women's rights advocate, journalist and one of the founders of the NAACP. Giddings is a professor of Afro-American Studies at Smith College and an author of bestselling books like *Delta Sigma Theta and the Challenge of the Black Sorority Movement* and *The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*. **Tue, 4 p.m., Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel. Free**

## HONORING A GIANT

Historian, scholar and advocate, former faculty member John Hope Franklin is remembered for his contributions to America. Dr. Lonnie Bunch, director of the National Museum of African-American History and Culture, will deliver the keynote address. **Thu, 6:30 p.m., Ira Aldridge Theatre. Free**



## LET GO...AND LET FLOW

Kerika Fields talks about how to navigate the dark, scary post-relationship abyss and how to come out on the other side ready to laugh and love again as she discusses her new book, *He's Gone...You're Back*. Fields promises to get you dancing through your tears in her guide on how to become unstuck from the limbo of a painful relationship. **Fri, 2 p.m., Howard University Bookstore. Free**

## HAIL TO THE CHIEF

The Howard University community, along with delegates from colleges and universities across the nation, will convene to commemorate the installation ceremony of the 16th president of Howard University, Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D. The event will be followed with a reception on the rooftop of the Undergraduate Library. **Fri, 10 a.m., John Burr Gymnasium. Free**

## DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!

Department of Theatre Arts students dance their, uh, feet off in "Yes We Can, in a Time of Change, Stand Strong." Faculty members Baba Assane Konte, Mama Akua Houyate and Katherine J. Smith choreograph the feature performances. **Fri, 7:30 p.m. and Sat, 4 p.m., Ira Aldridge Theatre. \$20 general admission, \$15 for students, senior citizens and children under 12.**

## PARTY IN LEDROIT PARK

The University community, which includes you, spends a day helping the residents of historic LeDroit Park. The day includes lots of fun such as music, dance performances, crafts and face painting. And yes, there will be plenty of food. **Sat, 9 a.m., LeDroit Park, Anna J. Cooper Circle. Free**

## SINGING HIS PRAISE



The Howard University Community Choir celebrates its 20th anniversary with a concert that will include some of its noted alumni and directors. **Sat, 6 p.m., Scripture Cathedral, 810 O Street. Free**



HOWARD UNIVERSITY

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For more of What To Do @ HU, visit [www.howard.edu](http://www.howard.edu), and go to the iLab to secure your [www.howard.edu](http://www.howard.edu) email address.