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## WEATHER



Established  
**1924**



# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO. 133

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

## Tuesday's Notebook

### BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY IS MAKING ITS WAY INTO TRADITION. FIND OUT WHAT BOOKS MAY BE REPLACED WITH IN THE FUTURE.

PAGE 4

### METRO

RECENTLY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PASSED THE SAFE HAVEN LAW. READ UP TO SEE WHAT IT ENTAILS.

PAGE 5

### LIFE & STYLE

WITH AN MTV SHOW AND SUPPORT FROM MUSIC MOGUL P. DIDDY, DAY 26 HAS RELEASED THEIR SOPHOMORE ALBUM, FOREVER AND A DAY.

PAGE 6

## Reimbursement, Safety Still on Minds of Parkers

BY ROYCE STRAHAN  
Contributing Writer

Students who have parking permits for the West Towers, located on Sherman Ave., were greeted to cones placed in front of the entrance and a notice to remove their cars or risk being towed on April 3.

In addition to having limited parking options on campus, student safety is also a concern of some students as a result of many continuing to use the West Towers lot as a shortcut to the U Street Metro station.

Clifford Smith, from the Department of Parking & Shuttle Operations, declined to comment, but said all student concerns and questions on this matter may be directed to the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) Vice President, Kellen Moore.

Moore is still waiting for answers from the administration about the future of the parking lot and what other incon-

veniences students will face as a result of it being closed.

"What I have heard is that the university has made accommodations for some of the students by providing them with staff parking," Moore said.

Junior broadcast journalism major Curtis McCloud is one of the many students who utilized the West Towers parking lot on a regular basis and feels like this "land swap" is bad business for the university. Even though McCloud has a parking permit for the Banneker South lot, he parked in the West Towers lot over the summer and appreciated the convenience it provided him.

"I think that with the lot being closed, students won't have the opportunity to have convenient parking," he said. "This will also cause students to park further off campus which runs the risk of more break-ins and student assaults."

Moore thinks it is important for students to know the status of the area they paid money to use and is unsure about reimbursements being made to the

students for the inconvenience.

"From what I was told, it doesn't sound like there are any plans to reimburse students the money for the area they paid to park in," he said.

Senior accounting major Aria Collins works in the service center and parks in the underground parking lot because she feels that the university's lots are unsafe.

"The West Lot being closed is absurd because there is no parking available for students or staff of the service center," Collins said. "If we have no lot, then we have to park on the streets and are subject to fines."

Collins said she also believes the university needs to reevaluate their spending habits.

"If the lot was generating estimated revenues of \$250 per year, per car, why are we closing the lots and making people take days off? If we have no money we should find a way to get it, instead of cutting sources," Collins said.

Junior political science major Odus



Travis White - Photo Editor

The parking lot behind the West Towers is now vacant, as the university no longer owns it. This "changing of hands" has been an inconvenience to several students.

Scales said she feels that the safety of students should be a main concern and also expressed his desire for continued safety regulations.

"I don't think, belonging to the larger D.C. area, the lot will be able to

be as closely monitored than if Howard still owned it," Scales said. "They need to keep allowing campus police to keep watch over that lot and remind students to be aware of their surroundings at all times."

## Student Athletes, Facilities Fall Victim to Acts of Vandalism

BY TERRICKA JOHNSON  
Editorial Assistant

Over the weekend, equipment and facilities belonging to the Howard University Athletics Department were victims to acts of vandalism by unknown suspects.

"Honestly, if I found out who did it, I wouldn't have anything to say to them," said James Robinson, a senior health education major, who is a member of the Bison football team. "The only thing I know is that [the football team] went to practice one day and there were obscenities spray painted on the field. I also know about bleach being placed in the water pumps, as well."

Freshman print journalism major Lauren McEwen offered her own insight on the situation, after getting wind of the situation.

"I did not hear about that situation, but I am bothered by the fact that Howard students could be acting in such a way," McEwen said.

It was discovered that bleach was placed in the water pumps after the practices of some Howard's athletic teams.

Student athletes drink water from the coolers that come from the pumps.

"It could be a random joke," Robinson said. "I don't know, because as far as the pumps go, we are not the only ones who use them. I don't even want to speculate on who may have did it or not."

Though McEwen said he feels as if the Bison football team members do not have the best reputation at Howard, she also feels said there is no reason why the situation should have escalated this far.

"There have been times when I thought they were doing a little too much such as in the Café sometimes," she said, "but never enough to want to do harm."

There is speculation that these at-

tacks are retaliation for fights that members of the football team were allegedly involved in a few weeks ago. The incident has disappointed and shocked students.

"The fact that it may be affecting unintended people proves how stupid it all is," McEwen said. "Someone they are probably not even targeting could get sick or hurt. It makes it even more ridiculous."



Travis White - Photo Editor

Recently, the football field was scathed by vandalizers, who spray-painted obscenities on the green. Additionally, bleach was placed in the water pumps used to hydrate athletes.

## Botswana-Inspired HBO Series Features Howard University Parents

BY SPENCER WHITNEY  
Contributing Writer

The Republic of Botswana has recently become a country of international fame, thanks to the literary works of Alexander McCall Smith, author of the hit book series "The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency" and a new HBO series based off the successful novels.

The series is set in Botswana and tells the story of the various adventures of Mma Precious Ramotswa, protagonist and main detective.

Since its first publishing in 1998, the culture-conscious mystery series has been steadily growing in popularity. The series deals with a variety of issues, from domestic violence to social relations in traditional African society.

With translations in more than 40 languages, and more than 15 million copies sold in English, it doesn't come as much of a surprise that the books would find their way onto television and radio.

The six-part HBO series premiered in the U.S. on March 29 with Grammy Award-winning singer and actress, Jill Scott, as the private detective Ramotswa.

Alexander McCall Smith is an author of more than 50 books, from children's stories, "The Tin Dog" to scholarly works "Errors, Medicine and the Law."

Moloko Tlou, a graduate student at Howard University, grew up in Botswana and came to the United States in 2007 to pursue a Master's degree in business administration.

After watching the show, Tlou felt that the show rings true to many of Bo-

swana's traditions and culture.

"Although much of Botswana has changed, you see different buildings right now," said Tlou. "Much of the humility and togetherness of the people you see in the series is still the same."

Tlou also said that some aspects are off, but most of it accurately portrays the culture.

Tlou's parents are even mentioned in "The Good Husband of Zebra Drive," which was published in 2007 as the eighth installment of Alexander McCall Smith's series of books.

"The protagonist, Mma Precious Ramotswa, is asked in the book if she could be someone else, who would it be, and she replied the Minister of Health who happens to be my mother, Professor

> See **BOTSWANA**, page 2



Amy Leang - Detroit Free Press (MCT)

Same-sex couples may have the opportunity to get married in the District and be recognized as married persons when moving from other states that legally permit such unions.

## Gay Community Gets Support from D.C. Mayor

BY COLLEEN CHALLENGER  
Contributing Writer

In a 12-0 vote, the D.C. Council approved of allowing same-sex couples with marriage licenses from other states to register as married couples in the District.

The decision came the same day Vermont became the fourth state to legalize same-sex marriages and a week after the Iowa Supreme Court legalized same-sex unions.

The April 7 unanimous vote was only a preliminary — the council is expected to cast their final vote on May 5.

The council's vote comes in lieu of an increase of states extending the rights of marriage to persons of the gay community.

On April 16, New York Gov. David Paterson stood before the press to announce that he will introduce a bill to Congress for legalizing same-sex nuptials in the state of New York.

Evidence that gay rights may be gaining national momentum exists in Maine and New Hampshire; both states are awaiting final ruling on bills that would grant legalization of same-sex marriages in their respective states.

In addition, lawmakers in Illinois and Minnesota are considering establishing similar bills.

In the District, Mayor Adrian Fenty and several council members, including Council Chairman Vincent Gray, have shown their support for similar legislation.

Doxie McCoy, spokeswoman for Councilman Gray, said Gray supports the bill "because everyone should be treated equally" and that he views it as a "civil rights issue."

Chairman David A. Catania, who is gay, has said in an interview with

The Washington Post that he is pushing for legislation on same-sex marriage and is hopeful that once presented, there will be full support from the council.

Timing, however, is crucial. According to McCoy, the parties with voting power on the issue have to determine the right time to introduce the bill and further discuss "the pros and cons of moving now, or later with different parties."

McCoy said it will take the gathering of council members, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, gay rights advocates, and even non-supporters for legislation to move forward.

The D.C. Council's approval to recognize out-of-state homosexual marriages has some residents calling for swift action.

Northeast resident Doneka Holloman has been in a relationship with her girlfriend for three years.

Holloman said she has considered marriage and wishes the District will legalize the nuptial of gay and lesbian couples at some point in time.

"We are still humans and should be able to be happy with who ever we are with, regardless if it is same sex," she said.

Holloman also said if the District finally decides to pass such a bill, "it would make me real happy. I would feel like I'm being treated [as an] equal."

McCoy said, "Recognition of same-sex marriages from other states gives [those same-sex couples] living in the District of Columbia the opportunity to benefit from the rights associated with marriage, including hospital visits, beneficiaries of wills, insurance benefits and continuation of the home environment they were accustomed to in other states."



# Following the Footsteps...

Former bison serve others using entrepreneurship skills, say it's important to 'be your own boss' today

BY SHAKIRA THOMAS  
Contributing Writer

Danladi Whitten, 34, made his dream a reality.

After graduating from Howard undergrad in 1997 with a degree in physical therapy, the California native immediately went to graduate school and earned his master's degree in 2001.

Afterward, he became an entrepreneur and now owns his own business, Progressive Physical Therapy.

"The best advice I can give to a future entrepreneur is figure out how to be your own boss," Whitten said. "Entrepreneurship keeps you from being a slave to someone else's business."

Whitten said working four days a week at Waterside Fitness & Swim Club as a physical therapist is what keeps him busy.

"I provide individual rehabilitation services for people who have been in severe accidents, have spinal cord injuries, or need nerve muscular re-education," Whitten said. "Recently, I had a client who needed to be trained how to walk again after an accident, and I was happy to help."

Cheo Brockenbrough, the general manager of Waterside Fitness & Swim Club, is also a Howard alumnus who owns his own business, Chuckfit International Fitness Management.

A track star in high school and the son of a heart surgeon, Brockenbrough said he has always been into fitness.

"At 11 years old, I was helping my dad run his office during the summer," he said. "So after I finished Howard in 1996, I started my own business."

Brockenbrough said his company provides pool management, health facilities management, group fitness contracts and personal training.

Brockenbrough said he loves being a personal trainer, teaching people how to exercise and take care of their bodies.

Being the son of two Howard alumni, Brockenbrough said he really didn't have a say in which university he would attend after high school; the decision was already made for him. He said by the time he became a senior at Howard, the university had taught him numerous invaluable lessons.

"Howard taught me about life and how to utilize the skills I have in order to become successful," Brockenbrough said.

Whitten said the social skills he gained at Howard proved to be useful in his career.

"My social experiences and competing with my peers shaped me into the man I am today," he said. "It is not easy attending HU; so as a whole, I think Howard taught me how to have good

survival skills, and that's what you need in this world."

Whitten said he remembers his freshman dorm like it was yesterday.

"Good ole Drew Hall," he said. "My freshman year, I was a member of G.O.D. [Gentlemen of Drew Social Club] and while I was in my sophomore year, I became a brother of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity."

Both Whitten and Brockenbrough, who still reside in the District, said it is important to give back to the community.

Whitten offers free consultations and low rates for members of Waterside Fitness & Swim Club, while Brockenbrough provides health programs for youth in the District.

A few years ago, Brockenbrough was the track coach for Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter School in northeast D.C.

During the summer, he worked with the Southwest Neighborhood Youth Task Force, providing swim lessons for all youth in the southwest neighborhood.

"Two of the programs I really enjoyed were Thanksgiving food drives and Christmas toy drives for Children's Hospital," Brockenbrough said. "I would answer Dear Santa letters, where I went out and bought the actual gift the child asked for in their letter."

Continued from front, **BOTSWANA**

Sheila Tlou," Tlou said.

"She goes on to comment on how she loves her hair, dresses and the speeches she gives at primary schools."

When Tlou's father became the president of the University of Botswana, he invited Alexander McCall Smith to help develop a curriculum for the school where he taught law.

Smith later became friends with her parents and got to know

many of the customs of Botswana.

"For once, we actually have a program that shows the positive aspects of Africa, as opposed to the usual stories of famine and poverty," Tlou said. "Both the book and show is humorous and honest, especially in the way mysteries are solved."

Former ambassador of Botswana and director of the Patricia Harris Public Affairs Program, Howard G. Dawson, also said that the show has a positive

impact and view of Africa.

"From what I've seen of the show, it reflects an earlier time period in Botswana, because it has since become much more modern with advancements in technology," Dawson said. "However, I see the show also examines many of the same values and culture that is common in Botswana."

He continued, "It actually has increased tourism. Many people that are coming to visit Botswana are curious as to where Zebra Drive is and other scenes



Salsa Dancing classes taught by Marcelo Druseo served as a weekly opportunity for students to receive dancing lessons and engage in cultural discussion.

# Salsa Dancing Brings Students Up to Tempo

BY MELISSA MONTGOMERY  
Contributing Writer

On any given Friday between the hours of 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., salsa music can be heard blaring through the third floor in Elaine Locke Hall.

For the past two years, Howard University students have been provided with free Salsa dancing lessons.

In efforts to get students more culturally aware, the Spanish Club started the salsa dancing club. Students from various majors and backgrounds found themselves interested in learning how to salsa.

Junior Spanish and economics double major David Beeks has been a part of the salsa dancing club for two years. Currently, Brooks serves as the president of the Spanish Club. While traveling abroad in Spain and the Dominican Republic, Beeks's interest in Spanish culture increased.

"Spain and the Dominican Republic has showed me that there is more than just Howard in the world; because of this, I want to bring the outside world to Howard," Beeks said.

Marcelo Druseo is the dance instructor for the club. Originally from Colombia, South America, Druseo brought his love for salsa dancing to the United States. Druseo said he has been salsa dancing for more than 20 years.

"This is what we do back home in Colombia; I wanted to bring what I know and teach the students who wanted to learn salsa," Druseo said.

For some students, the club is more than just a place to learn how to dance; Senior musical theatre major, Zurin Villanueva, said she uses salsa dancing as a way to wind down from a stressful school week.

"I like this club because there are no strings attached; I can come whenever I feel like it," Villanueva said. Villanueva has been salsa dancing since her sophomore year of college. Once she learned about the salsa dancing club her junior year, she quickly joined.

Sophomore health education major, Marceesha Walker, said she never salsa danced, but she was always interested in learning and was excited when she learned about the club.

"I am a Spanish major, and my teacher told me that in order to get to know the language, you have to know the culture as well," Walker said.

Ever since she joined the club in January, Walker describes the club as "one whole Spanish culture in one room."

For Druseo, teaching the students how to salsa is more than the students learning the Spanish culture, he said it's also about them learning their culture as well.

"When people think about salsa, they think about it being Latin, but it has African roots...it has a lot of blackness," he said.

Since there is no commitment to the club, the number of students who attend usually fluctuates. Druseo said on one Friday, there could be 20 people; where as the next Friday, only five people would show up. Like most things on Howard University's campus, there are more female participants than males.

C.J. Weaver, a sophomore chemistry major, heard about the club when he visited the organizational fair at the beginning of the school year. Weaver said he was a little hesitant about the club at first, but now he admits that the club is not what he expected.

"This club is more than just salsa, we talk about things that opens us up to the world," Weaver said.

Freshman biology major, Crystal Wright, said the members of the club were very welcoming when she first came.

"Marcelo took the time to teach those who did not know how to dance. He understands that there are people at different levels, but he took the time to teach us," Wright said.

Druseo said he hopes that more students come out next school year. He is looking forward to teaching more students how to salsa dance and teaching them about the importance of culture diversity.

**HUB**

**April 23 - May 7**

April 23 - 24,	Thurs. - Fri.,	9:30 - 5:00
April 27 - May 1,	Mon. - Fri.,	9:30 - 5:00
May 4 - May 6,	Mon. - Wed.,	9:30 - 5:00
May 7,	Thurs.,	9:30 - Noon

**Run and get your application!**

Hilltop 2009-2010 Staff

Applications are still available.

Those applying for editorial positions have until Wednesday, April 22 (tomorrow) at 4 p.m. to turn it in.

Business office applicants have until Friday, April 24, at 4 p.m.

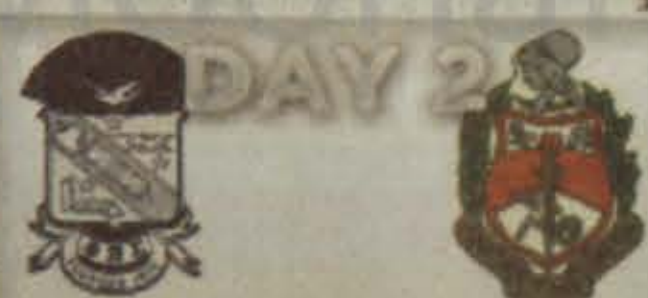
All completed applications should be turned in to the Office of Student Activities.



# NPHC WEEK

## National Pan-Hellenic Week 2009

Shedding Light on the issues facing the Black Greek community, and the Howard Community as a whole. The council plans to present a unified front to the campus and promote the aims and ideals of each organization.



**TRICKS OF THE TRADE**  
Investing Your Money in the Struggling Economy  
Monday, April 20, 2009  
7pm-9pm  
Blackburn Forum



**GOLDEN RULES OF SAFETY**  
Tuesday April 21, 2009  
7pm - 9pm  
Blackburn Center  
Digital Auditorium



The C.A.R.E. Program Presents  
**G.L.A.D.**  
(Greeks Learning To Avoid Debt)  
Wednesday, April 22, 2009  
7pm-9pm  
Blackburn Forum



**TAKING BACK THE YARD**  
Thursday, April 23, 2009  
12pm-2pm  
The Punch Out  
Come celebrate the last official day of classes! There will be a DJ and Greek trivia.

# NEO STROLL 2009

The New  
**Kids**  
on the Block

Thursday, April 23, 2009  
7pm-9pm  
Burr Gymnasium



## The Official Graduation Center Pick - Up Fair

brought to you by  
The Howard University Bookstore

### ATTENTION GRADUATING STUDENTS!!!!

"Make the Howard University Bookstore your one-stop shop for your announcements, class ring, diploma frame, and Bison Yearbook."

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2009, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. College of Medicine School of Business Graduate School (Ph.D.)	TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2009, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. College of Arts & Sciences Graduate School (Masters)	WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2009, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Division of Allied Health Sciences School of Communications
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. School of Divinity School of Social Work College of Dentistry Division of Nursing	2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. School of Education School of Pharmacy	2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. School of Law
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. College of Engineering, Architecture, and Computer Sciences Division of Fine Arts	2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Division of Fine Arts	

\*\*Students will be required to present their graduate clearance slip and student ID before receiving their cap and gown at the bookstore. Students will not be given a cap and gown without the stamped approval slip. Students with special circumstances may contact our Customer Service Department at 202-238-2640 for further assistance. For more information, please visit our Graduation Center at [hubookstore.com](http://hubookstore.com).

**Bison Yearbook Distribution Schedule,**  
Monday, May 4 - Friday, May 8, 2009, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

2225 Georgia Ave., NW, Washington DC, 20059  
For more information contact us at 202.238.2640  
or visit our Online Graduation Center  
at [www.hubookstore.com](http://www.hubookstore.com).

**Attention All Students:**

The University has formally begun the District of Columbia mandated 2009 Campus Master Plan Update for the Central and West Campuses. This planning process will focus on providing the University with a framework for developing strategies to protect, enhance, and preserve the timeless quality of the Central and West Campuses.

An important part of this process is evaluating the status of the Housing and Recreation programs, services, and facilities to determine the need for improvements. One of the key components of this undertaking is to learn about your use of the Housing and Recreation facilities--or your reasons for not using these facilities--to better meet your needs and those of future students. Your participation in this survey is vital to the success of our efforts.

Let your opinions be heard and participate in the Housing and Recreation Survey.

We would appreciate it if you could take approximately 15 minutes to complete the web-based survey. As a token of our appreciation for your time, you will be entered into a drawing to win one of the following:

- 1st - \$100 Bookstore Gift Certificate
- 2nd - \$100 Bookstore Gift Certificate
- 3rd - \$100 in Dining Dollars
- 4th - \$100 in Dining Dollars

Once you have completed the survey, you will be prompted to enter your email address, which will make you eligible for the prizes. Winners will be notified by this department once the survey period is closed and entries are processed.

Howard University has retained the services of a nationally recognized independent consulting firm, Brailsford & Dunlavey, to administer the survey. Should you have any questions about this process, please contact [survey@facilityplanners.com](mailto:survey@facilityplanners.com)

The survey will close on April 23, 2009. For your convenience, the survey instrument is provided in web-based format.

Your Howard University email account contains a message with the link to the survey.

All information that you provide is strictly confidential. No individual responses will be identified.

If you are interested in expressing your opinions directly, please contact the Office of Student Life to participate in a series of Housing and Recreation focus groups.

I greatly appreciate your taking the time to participate in this important project for Howard University.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Gibbs  
Interim Vice Provost for Student Affairs  
Howard University



# Marketing Company Aims to Hire Underrepresented Minorities

## Howard student finds herself in seemingly recession-proof internship with 9-year old business

BY BRITNEY BREWINGTON  
Contributing Writer

The son of a Jamaican mother and a Puerto Rican father, Joseph Anthony became bothered when he saw a Fortune 500 company using a mainstream agency to target minorities, particularly African Americans.

Now with clients such as Nike, Adidas, Pepsi, Tommy Hilfiger, NASCAR and many others, Anthony no longer feels bothered.

Anthony, is the CEO of Vital Marketing Group, currently the fastest growing marketing company of its kind in the country. Offering event marketing, guerilla marketing, sports and entertainment marketing, brand promotions and many other services, Vital has managed to stay afloat during trying times.

Founded in 2000, the company revenues reached \$3 million, a number that most companies see after years of building steady relationships. Shortly after, Anthony received the rising star award from Black Enterprise Magazine in 2001.

However, according to the National Association of Business Economists, 90 percent of the 102 member association are certain that the economy has fallen into a recession that most feel will last through the end of the year.

Through it all, Vital has managed to combat against the failing economy.

"As a boutique firm, it has thus been even more important to employ efficient business development practices, and to become more focused on merchandising our key points of difference," said vice president of Marketing Richard Campbell.

The economic condition has caused many corporations to make drastic changes to the way their organizations are run. Google, Inc. recently announced they are cutting 200 workers, while some colleges and universities have frozen hiring and began offering packages to faculty and professors that wish to retire. However, for this N.Y.-based experimental marketing company, slowing down is not an option.

"One key strategy that we have also adopted is to target government businesses because of its

large scale and stability," Kwadwo Tufuoh, president of Vital, said. "We have used government billings as the cornerstone of our growth over the past seven years and that strategy has kept us in good standing while other agencies our size have been unable to sustain themselves."

For graduating senior and public relations major Brittney Lewis, she's just glad she was in the right place at the right time.

"I was hanging out in Blackburn when I learned of Vital Marketing Group," she said. "Richard Campbell, VP of business marketing, walked up to me and a couple of friends to inform us about the new school supply line called Street Science that was located in the Howard University Bookstore. Subsequently, he gave me his business card and I emailed him about job opportunities and the rest is history."

A couple of weeks later, Lewis landed herself an internship with the fast-growing marketing company.

"I'm involved with expanding the distribution of Street Science School Supplies to online retailers," Lewis said. "Due to the lack of male and urban presence in the school supply market, Street Science was developed to recognize and target these urban and male students who now can purchase school supplies that cater to their interests."

"It seemed curious to us that while that market segment was experiencing so much innovation in other sectors, it was almost the reverse in the school supplies industry, Tufuoh said. "After age 11 or 12, it was almost impossible to find anything, 'cool on the shelf.'"

Graduates have looked high and low for companies like Vital, and for Lewis, on her way to receiving her degree, this opportunity could not have come at a better time.

The black unemployment rate is at 13.3 percent according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, while over the past year the number of unemployed persons has increased by five million.

"Because we service clients across several demographic markets segments, we do not

specifically target minorities. We do however, highly value qualified minority applicants because of the generally low representation across the marketing industry," Tufuoh said.

"They are beginning to reach out to HBCU's to find talented individuals who are willing to work

and go the extra mile. Their internship opportunities present an array of endless possibilities, and I'm so happy and excited that I was given the chance to work with Vital," Lewis said.

Despite the failing economy, Vital Marketing Group seems to be recession proof.



Lewis met Vital Vice President of Business Marketing in the Armour J. Blackburn Center and found an internship. Photo Courtesy of Britney Brewington

## Books Meet Their Tech Match

BY NATASSHA ROBINSON  
Contributing Writer

Amazon's newest electronic book, the Kindle, made its debut in 2007 is now battling with traditional paperbacks for the No. 1 spot.

Jeff Bezos, founder and chief executive of Amazon.com, said he created the Kindle with hope that his new device would revolutionize books the same way the iPod revolutionized music.

As a single-handed device that allows readers to purchase books on an electronic bookstore on Amazon.com, the Kindle is engineered to hold up to 1,500 items which ultimately works as a mobile library. But, like many new inventions, they must win over the hearts of consumers.

Unlike the iPod and portable CD players, The Kindle has not yet won over the majority of consumers who still love traditional books.

Junior education major Kylina Hanley said, "Why would I want to buy a book on a device to read it once when I can go to the library, read it, and then return it?"

Traditional books are not going to be easily replaced. The use of traditional books has been around for centuries and has been the main source of information for millions.

"I could never replace actual books because it is just something about holding a book in my hands and physically flipping through the pages, it gives me a sense of accomplishment when I get to the end," stated Hanley.

Facilities, such as local D.C. libraries, are considering adapting to e-books but never thoroughly replacing traditional books.

"Traditional books are the source to life," stated Mary Logan, a librarian at the Martin Luther King Library. "We are considering possibly ordering a couple of Kindles in the near future and allowing people to rent them out during their stay at the library," continued Logan.

But despite MLK Library's slight adaptation Logan, like others, feel that there is a certain liveliness to traditional books that can't be replaced with technology.

"The library can order as many e-books as they like but there's something about paper books we all love. The readers that come here are not looking for gadgets they're looking for a book to physically get wrapped into. They want to get excited to turn to the next page of a great book. Technology can't replace that feeling," stated Logan.

Although e-books may never replace tradition books for some readers, large companies like Amazon who are pushing the Kindle may easily make e-books mainstream.

The Kindle, along with other e-books, is supposed to be a device that makes reading exciting and easier for the average reader. The device is quick, sufficient, easily accessible, and can't be used by the most technically challenged person.

For some who have already made the switch from traditional books to e-books wouldn't trade it for the world. Katrin Ware, English Professor at the University of Massachusetts and a Kindle owner loves every aspect of her Kindle.

"First of all its [Kindle] environmentally safe; people aren't killing trees to make the Kindle...also the Kindle is just so easily accessible: I can pull it out, read any book, buy any book, and put it away virtually anywhere," stated professor Ware.

In the end the replacement of traditional books to e-books lies within the reader.

"I love to read," said James Thomas, who was reading at the Martin Luther King Library and a freshman undecided major at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC).

"Right now I don't personally see myself going out to purchase e-books like the Kindle but I'm not afraid to make that change. Technology is improving and taking over and we as people must eventually adapt to the times," continue Thomas.

The Kindle vs. paper books leaves many people wondering who will win the battle with consumers. The fate of e-books, like the Kindle, lie in the hands of avid future readers. Although now, consumers have not quite adapted to e-books, in future the Kindle and other e-books may take a dominant place in the world of reading.

The time has come.

Underclassmen: 13 days

Seniors: 2 days

Don't sleep on finals.

## Student Hustle: Pushing Scholarships

BY CHRISTOPHER CARAWAY  
Contributing Writer

Getting up from her bed laid against the window, Erica Rochelle Lee reaches for her black marker. With it in hand, she crosses out the name of the scholarship application that she has just completed. She then puts the cap back onto the marker, sits down on her bed, grabs her laptop to begin on the next application.

Lee is a junior political science major from Richmond, Va., who has had scholarships pay for all of her tuition at Howard.

Throughout her academic career at Howard University, Lee has received various types of scholarships.

"I've earned scholarships not only from Howard University, but also professional organizations," Lee said. "I've received scholarships from the Organiza-

tion of African American Linguists, multiple sororities, The Girl Scouts of America and the William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Foundation."

The number of scholarships Lee has accumulated has given her the privilege of not having to deal with the stress of taking loans out to pay for school.

"The scholarships that I have earned cover almost 90 percent of my college education, room, board and books," she said. "The other 10 percent has been paid by my parents, and I thank them often for their contribution to my college education."

Anwar Jackson has known Erica since 2007 and has been motivated by her to jump on the bandwagon and apply for more scholarships than he has before.

"Even though we are studying two different fields, Erica still inspires me to



Photo Courtesy of Christopher Caraway  
Howard junior political science major and scholarship collector Erica Lee is headed to Dubai this summer.

be the best in my specialty," Jackson said, a junior sports medicine major. "This includes applying for scholarship programs that I would not have otherwise."

Lee searches for scholarships all the time and tries to find scholarships that relate to her interests.

Typically, the scholarships she receives are related to community service, political science, or international relations and foreign language study since she speaks both French and Spanish.

"Erica definitely hustles for scholarships, as well as any opportunities she can," said Kelly McCray, a senior Greek and English double major.

McCray said she met Erica in the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program during summer 2008.

"Erica is willing to hustle and work to fund any venture she is pursuing," she said, "from seeking a trip to Dubai to writing essays for scholarships." Other than earning scholarships

to fund her Howard education, scholarships received by Erica have given her the opportunity to study in a foreign country.

"The last scholarship, awarded by the Clinton Foundation, is enabling me to study abroad in Dubai, UAE this summer," Lee said. "I will be studying Comparative Middle Eastern Cultures, Politics and Arabic."

All the money made by her scholarships allows Erica to be independent and take it upon herself to fund her own education.

"It's really amazing to know that there are many organizations out there that provide funding and support for people pursuing higher education," Lee said. "Sometimes it can be tedious putting together application after application, and essay after essay, but at the end of the day it's worth it. There's nothing greater than knowing that you've been rewarded for your effort and hard work."



# Cynthia Gordy Brings New Essence to the White House

BY DANIELLE KWATENG  
Managing Editor

In the midst of an unprecedented election season, last year, *ESSENCE Magazine* took on the task of covering it from all sides. From bus rides with John McCain to at home access with the Obamas, they did their best to get the scoop on the rollercoaster ride to the White House.

After the dust settled and the clouds passed, the world was left with a new unprecedented leader of the free world. And again *ESSENCE* took on a task.

They decided they needed deeper coverage of the new administration that couldn't be documented from their Manhattan sky rise office. So, they selected writer Cynthia Gordy for the D.C. correspondent position.

"We've been covering the election for the past two years. Readers were interested in all aspects and that's what we covered," said *ESSENCE* deputy editor, Tatsha Robertson.

"Our readers wanted more online; they wanted more in print...they just wanted more. First, because it's historical, with a black family in the White House. Second, there's so much they wanted to know about the issues facing the country and them, personally."

Gordy's journey to *ESSENCE* was

not unlike the typical fresh graduate. Originally from Philadelphia, she graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2003 with a double major in creative non-fiction and Africana studies.

She was previously an intern at *ESSENCE*, before coming on staff in January of 2004.

And as quick as her progression to news editor was, faster was the switch to Washington correspondent. "It all happened very quickly. Basically, a few weeks before Christmas, I was offered the position, and I was apartment hunting a few weeks afterwards," Gordy said.

"I'm definitely new to the city. I'm new to political reporting...this intensity of political reporting. I'm definitely learning about this as I'm working. It's [D.C.] a really different pace, but I really like it."

But despite all of her apprehensions, Robertson is very confident in Gordy's tackling of this new challenge.

"She [Gordy] has the ability to be able to jump on anything, ask great questions and be able to work with her surroundings," Robertson said about her former assistant.

And in a city like the District, one has to be tactful to catch all the constant changes.

"I just cover everything that I can, because there's so many things going on

around me," said Gordy.

"My typical day is a combination of attending a presidential conference or bill signing at the White House and then seeing what the first lady is doing. And all the while, I'm just blogging about everything going on around me for the Web site and also writing for the magazine."

Readers get to read and interact with what's going on from a couple of outlets. From blog posts, exclusive interviews, hard news pieces and online featurettes, Gordy has all the bases covered.

"I think as far as our readers, they're really interested in the president and first lady. Just because of what they represent as an achievement for black people. Now that we're beyond the time of just celebrating achievement, we're still interested in seeing what he's going to do," said Gordy.

"And also right now, the times that we're living in are so precarious that people are paying attention, because the economy is...people are losing their jobs and people are seeing the effects of what the government can do for you."

And with 60 percent of African-American voters being women, *ESSENCE* understands the importance of having a clear political voice.

"Sometimes we'll look at a policy issue in further detail to see how it will



Photo Courtesy of The Maynard Institute  
Cynthia Nixon has held many positions at *Essence Magazine* and has now moved to the District to keep track of the Obama administration for the publication.

specifically affect African-Americans. If I interview an official, I'll ask them questions that have particular interests to African-Americans," Gordy said.

"*ESSENCE* is a women's magazine. But having a position as a black women's

magazine, that inherently makes us a political magazine, in a way too. And we always covered politics and social issues. This is just way more focused political content than we've done in the past. We just have to be clear about it."

# Safe Haven Law Passed in D.C. to Prevent Infant Deaths

BY ALEXA MURRAY  
Contributing Writer

Two men went fishing at a Prince George's County, Md. lake recently, only to find the body of an infant girl in the water and discarded in a bag.

The District of Columbia recently passed a Safe Haven Law, allowing parents to abandon infants as old as one week at any emergency facility in the District, according to the D.C. Council Web site.

A few times a year, it is reported that a parent has been charged with the death of their newborn, or that an infant was found discarded in places, such as a dumpster. These instances made it necessary for legislatures to offer a better option, available to all parents.

Erica Okchie, a sophomore biology major, said that she never heard of the law until recently, but thinks it is a better decision than throwing the baby away or harming them.

"It would benefit mothers who absolutely know they can't take care of their child, but for others, it may make it so easy to drop off your child that you may regret your decision later," Okchie said.

According to the D.C. Council Web site, once a child has been handed over to an emergency official, the parents are not questioned about their reason for leaving the child, or contacted for help unless signs of abuse are present.

The infant will be checked for any illnesses or problems at a hospital, then released to the Child and Family Services Agency to be placed in a pre-adoptive home. If a parent decides to reclaim the child within 72 hours or less, they will be allowed to

pick the child up from the hospital.

Danielle Flowers, a junior marketing major, said this law has its advantages and disadvantages.

"It's better than neglecting the child, but I think they should partner up with the parents to help them because there are not a lot of people adopting today, and in foster care, they do not have a real parent and child relationship," said Flowers.

Matt Lukasiak, vice president of Missions at Providence Hospital, said, "If there is any failure in the Safe Haven Law it is because people do not know about it, as with many other laws."

Lukasiak said although he is not familiar with any cases of infant deaths at the hands of their parent in the District of Columbia, he is sure there have been cases in the area. Being so, the staff at Providence Hospital is concerned with children's safety.

There are many options available to parents in the case that they are unable to care for their child. If a parent abandons their child at an emergency facility, such as a hospital, police station, fire station or medical emergency facility, they will not be pursued or persecuted by the city, according to the Child Welfare Information Gateway.

Lisa Thorn, a mother of two from Glen Burnie, Md., said that she knows someone who abandoned their child at a hospital because they were using drugs around the baby, only for the baby to get a hold of the drugs. They were pursued by police because of the circumstances involving illegal substances.

"If you know before-hand that you may harm your child, you should consider many options, the Safe Haven Law being one," Thorn said.



Photo Courtesy of Filmfest DC  
The 23rd annual D.C. International Film Festival entitled Filmfest DC, will be held until April 26. Above is a scene from an American filmmaker's black and white film that is set in the District and titled "Let The Church Say Amen."

# International Film Festival Features Japanese, Eastern Europe Clips

BY AMBER V. SMITH  
Contributing Writer

Though many local future filmmakers and movie lovers dream of going to the Cannes International Film Festival, they can have the same experience at the District's annual film festival.

The 23rd annual Washington, D.C. International Film Festival will be premiering more than 70 films from around the world. Sponsored by the University of the District of Columbia, this year's festival will focus on films from Eastern Europe and Japan.

The festival will also feature more than 30 international film directors scheduled to premiere their films.

Formed in 1987, the film festival is considered an important event in Washington. According to the festival's Web site, "the festival brings together the city's major cultural institutions in a spirit of cooperation and celebration."

Filmfest DC premieres films in theaters across the city, including Landmark's E Street Cinema, the Harman Center for the Arts and Regal Cinemas at Gallery Place in Chinatown, all of which are near the Howard University campus.

"Over the years, Filmfest DC has introduced hundreds of international films to the District of Columbia, and scores of filmmakers have shared their insights with us," Tony Gittens, festival direc-

tor, in a press release.

"It is through their lens that audiences enjoy the unique perspective of diverse cultures. That is the beauty of Filmfest DC."

Besides visiting film premieres, festival attendees can also visit panel discussions with film directors at Borders Books and watch classic short films at the National Gallery of Art. The festival also offers selections for the District's senior citizens at the Avalon Theatre.

The festival is affordable for college students and individuals on a budget. The events held at Borders, the National Gallery of Art and the Avalon Theatre are all free. General admission for the other featured films are priced at \$10.

Multi-ticket packages are also made available. The Director's Pass is a 10-ticket pass priced at \$80, and the Weekday Pass is a four-ticket pass priced at \$30.

The festival is an appealing activity for those interested in experiencing the cultural scene of Washington. It is also great for students looking to take a break from studying for finals.

"I have never been to a film festival before," said Chloe Miles, a junior sociology major. "I think I would go so I could take a break from studying. I also want to branch out and see more of what D.C. has to offer."

The District will host the film festival until Sunday, April 26.

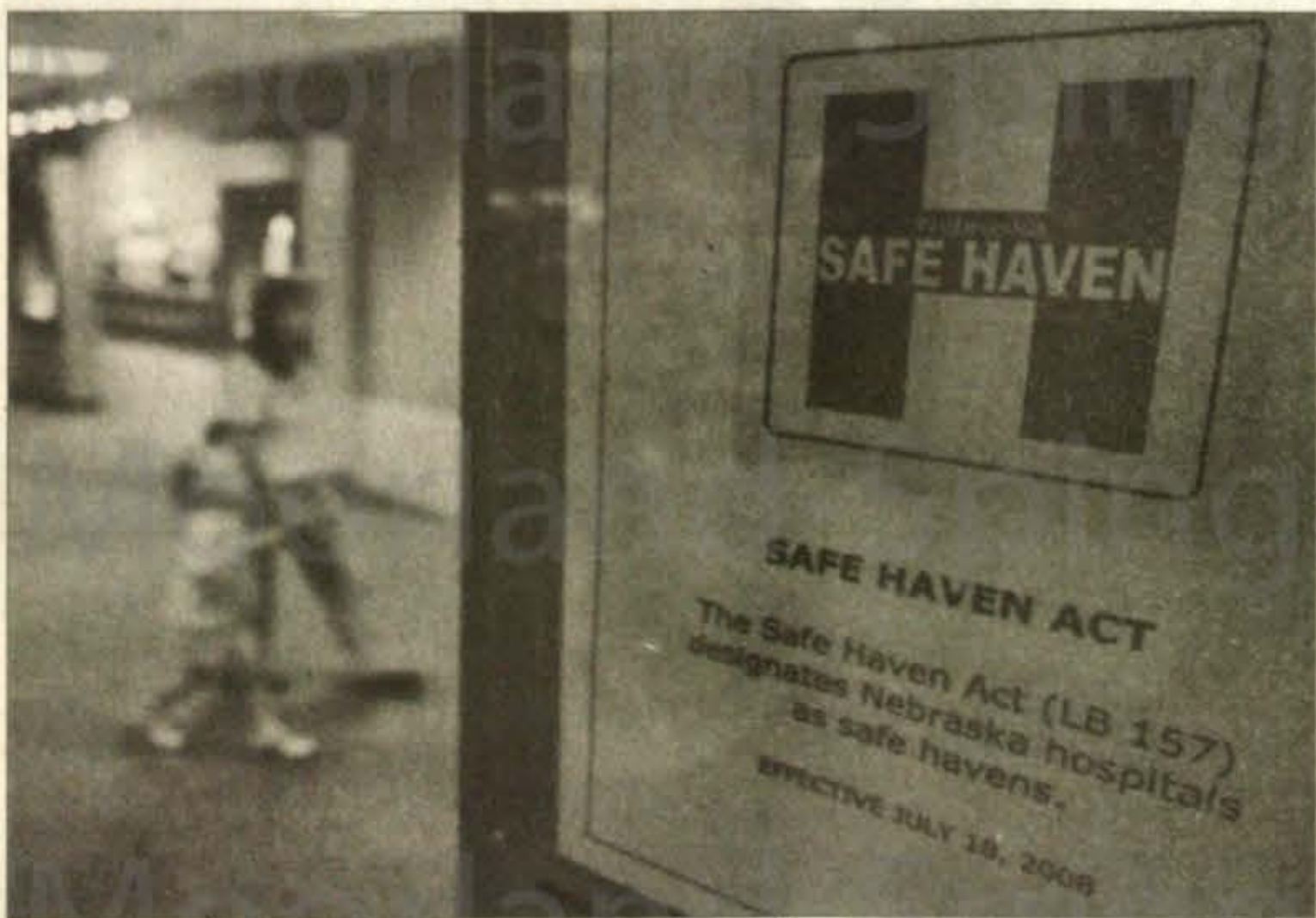


Photo Courtesy of Nat'l Health - Associated Press (MCT)  
The Safe Haven law passed in the District allows for parents to leave their infant at hospitals and other facilities.

Less Partying, More Studying  
Let's Get It!!!





## TRUE LIFE: Grow Up

BY ALEESA MANN  
Life & Style Editor

I know this school year has been stressful because I've developed a two-cups-a-day coffee routine and have an OCD-like habit of walking really, really fast.

I guess you could call it my quarter-life crisis, but this year I've found myself in the most dramatic circumstances I've ever been in.

From dealing with illness, stress and the overwhelming task of figuring out what I want to do with my life, I've spent most of the year feeling as if everything I had grown used to was pulled out from under my feet.

For a while, I self-diagnosed myself as slightly neurotic, but I've come to the realization that I can either spend my time dwelling on the fact that I feel totally clueless, or I can embrace the opportunity for change. I've chosen the latter.

This year has definitely been something that has bypassed my expectations, and I think that's what sophomore year is supposed to be—a year that challenges you to learn about yourself.

Freshman year is a time to do whatever, whenever, but never really branching too far from what you know. For me, freshman year was about having fun.

Don't get me wrong, sophomore year is fun too, but it's been a lot more than that. Work gets harder; friends get closer or farther, (but somehow the cafeteria food still tastes just as bad).

But more than having fun this year, I've been searching for meaning. In that search I've learned that instead of having expectations, sometimes it's best to just go with the flow.

Sophomore year has been about exposing myself to new things. It's been about putting myself outside of my comfort zone to find out about what I do and don't like.

In the past year, I've learned that Caribbeans party the best; Wu-Tang really ain't nothing to [mess] with, and if I can't comb my hair, just let it fro!

I've made friends from other countries, tried foods with names I can't pronounce and finally applied for a passport.

On top of everything, I've made my first plans to finally leave North America to study abroad in Spain for four months.

For anyone getting ready to enter their sophomore year, I would say definitely take advantage of all the opportunities before you, even if they aren't familiar to you—those are the times when you learn the most about yourself.

It's OK to just get in the car and drive somewhere without any plans, or to go to a party with people you don't know; you might end up loving it and making new friends in the process.

It seems like everything has happened so fast. In eight months, I've learned more about myself than I have ever known in the past 20 years.

Sophomore year has had an oddly liberating effect. I think they call it "growing up."

Funny, it seems like only two weeks ago I was fretting about getting older...



Day 26's album titled "Forever in a Day" was released last week. The group gets their name from the day they were chosen to be in the group, Aug. 26, 2007.

## Day 26 Sets Differences Aside for New Album Promotions

BY ANGELA RICHARDSON  
Contributing Writer

High profile feuds on MTV's "Making the Band 4" reality show haven't kept Day 26 from releasing their sophomore album and putting plans together for their U.S. promotions tour,

according to band member Willie Taylor.

"We was whiling for a minute," Taylor said while promoting the new album, "Forever and a Day" with radio station WPGC 95.5 at Lotus Lounge in the District.

Since the beginning of the fourth season of the show, the

group, Will Taylor, Brian Andrews, Mike McCluney, Robert Curry and Qwanell Mosley, experienced many arguments in the studio, fights in their New York bachelor's pad and constant financial issues with the Bad Boy Records label, causing fans to lose faith in the group and band member in particular Mosley,

and 112, danced to the new tracks of the album all over the floors of Lotus, while signing autographs and taking photos for fans and supporters and explaining the difference between the first album and the new one.

better known as Que.

According to MTV News, Mosley was the main cause of the continuous fights between himself and the other group members.

"To the fans, I apologize for my actions, but I was hurt because I really didn't know what was going on in the group anymore," Mosley said. "I was dealing with a situation with my family and had to get that straight first."

Although Day 26, a name reference to the date, Aug. 26, 2007, when the five members were selected on the reality show, shared harsh words with each other and engaged in several fist fights, the group said they are still a family.

"People just saw what groups go through and saw us venting," Taylor said. "We are brothers, and at the end of the day, that's what it's all about."

With their second album dropping last Tuesday, Day26, who compared themselves to groups like Boys II Men, Jodeci

and 112, danced to the new tracks of the album all over the floors of Lotus, while signing autographs and taking photos for fans and supporters and explaining the difference between the first album and the new one.

"The last album was more ballads and showing people that we could really sing," Curry said. "On this one, we took it into our own hands."

Curry, who wrote track 15, "Truth is a Lie," said writing is one of his passions and that he and his fellow group members were able to make contributions to this album.

"This has made me think about writing for other artists, so this is definitely big for me," he said.

Mosley, who also wrote a song entitled, "Perfectly Blind," on the new album, came up with the name and overall concept for the album, leading to his philosophy that time is music.

"In this album, the fans are getting the honesty, the truth and the realness of Day 26," Mosley said.

With Day 26's self-titled first album debuting No. 1 on the Billboard charts in 2008, the group said they have high hopes for their second album, giving their fans more than just great music.

"If you like great singing, I mean like real singing, like real singing, than this album is for you," Mosley said.

## Students Find Productive Ways to Spend Summer Without an Internship

BY CHRIS CARAWAY  
Contributing Writer

The approaching summer break is a time for students, like Brittany Kern, to secure an internship to gain the experience in the career field of their choice.

Kern, a junior finance major, is currently interning with the Washington Wizards in their community relations department. Kern said she feels without an internship, she would be behind in terms of experience.

"Today with the state of the economy, I would feel behind in experience if I did not have an internship," said Kern. "It depends on who you talk to, but a lot of employers want to see that experience outside of the classroom, and if you have it, it gives you an advantage over your competition."

Despite the opportunity provided by interning, students who do not have an internship have the option to use the summer to take courses to catch up on credits they need in order to graduate on time.

Nicholas Nelson, a junior public relations major, does not have an internship for the summer, but intends to make his summer constructive by taking summer courses at Howard and Louisiana State University.

"I would feel unproductive without an internship," said Nelson. "However, I'm going to be taking summer school courses so that I can catch up on my minor requirements. I chose my minor, sociology, late and a lot of the classes in the department were full, so I'll still be productive,

just in a different setting."

The difficulty with internships, is finding the one that is right for the student. Michelle Ramos, a junior biology major, does not have an internship for the summer and does not feel she is being left behind.

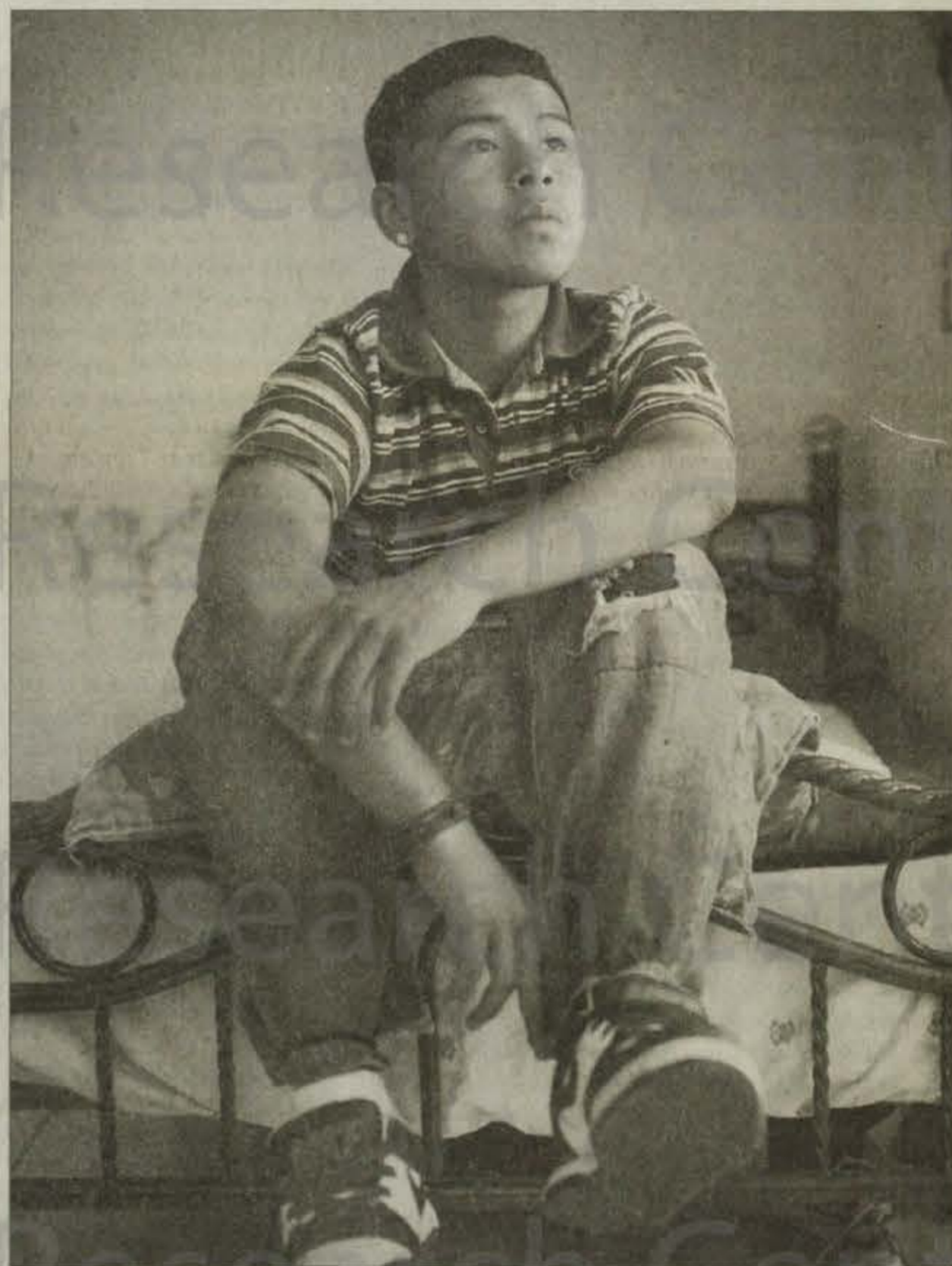
"Internships are not for everyone, and not everyone can find internships that fit their needs," said Ramos. "There are other opportunities that students are able to participate in."

Ramos plans on volunteering at Christiana Hospital in Christiana, Delaware and working over the summer as a resident assistant at the University of Delaware to keep busy.

Other than getting the experience for their career, students are encouraged to acquire internships to build up their resume. Carol Dudley, coordinator for the Office of Career Development in the John H. Johnson School of Communications, knows how students can stay productive if they do not receive an internship.

"The first thing I recommend is that the student should remain positive," said Dudley. "If a student does not secure an internship opportunity, they should volunteer to assist in an organization that is closely related to their discipline."

At graduation time, employers are looking for experienced college students to hire, and internships and career related volunteerism are great resume builders, Dudley said. "You can accomplish the same things volunteering as you can at an internship. Just because you are volunteering does not mean that you should take the work any less seriously



Brian Harkin—Chicago Tribune (MGT)

Even without an internship students should still find ways to be productive during the summer, by developing a hobby or honing a skill.

than an internship."

In addition to volunteering, students can remain active by doing extracurricular activities or beginning a hobby.

"Students can hone their skills by reading unassigned books related to their discipline," said Dudley. "There should be

no idle time; there is always something to learn. A student can also begin to think about creating a project that will have a contribution on society or use the time to locate a professional mentor."

## Rapper Lil' Wayne Rocks a New Image for the "Rebirth"

BY SASHA QUINTANA  
Contributing Writer

The self-proclaimed "best rapper alive," Dwayne "Lil' Wayne" Carter Jr., is leaving the rap game to take a stab at rock 'n' roll. Lil' Wayne's rock debut, "Rebirth," is slated for release June 9 after being pushed back twice from its original April 7 release date.

The New Orleans native from the poverty stricken Hollygrove neighborhood is known for being fixated on becoming the best rapper in history. Now, he's reportedly finished with rapping.

Lil' Wayne's first rock single "Prom Queen," is now available on iTunes but will fans support the crossover rock album?

"Prom Queen," which features the fireman singing only with the help of auto-tune, is a rock flavored single infused with an erratic guitar and heavy metal drums.

"She's popular with all the guys, so innocent in my eye. I could see her in my life. She would've had the world if she was mine," Lil' Wayne sings.

Stephen Miller, a junior graphic design major and fan of Lil' Wayne, recently heard "Prom Queen" for the first time.

"Him wanting to do rock is not him really thinking he can do rock with true musical talent," Miller said. "It's a publicity stunt—I just think he wants some attention."

The tattoo covered, ultra confident, raspy voiced 26-year old boasts 6 million album sales throughout his 13-year career.

His 2008 album, "The Carter III," sold 1 million copies in its first week. He went on to become the top-selling artist of 2008 in addition to nabbing four Grammys at this year's ceremony, including the Best Rap Album for "The Carter III."

Lil' Wayne has undoubtedly become a corner stone in the hip-hop community.

But will he be able to continue his success with such a bold career move?

Lydia Samuels, a radio, television and film major, said she thinks fans will support the musical giant indefinitely.

"People will download his album because of his stardom. They're going to represent him because he's Lil' Wayne and he's at his prime," Samuels said. "I don't think what he's doing is new. It's definitely been done before by Run DMC and Aerosmith."

Some students are offended by Lil' Wayne's crossover attempt. James "JC" Durrah, a junior broadcast major, is one of them.

"People are really going to buy into this [expletive] because they like Lil' Wayne, and they're not even going to take into consideration that he's perverting a genre," said Durrah, a singer, songwriter and vocal arranger.

"I don't like it at all. For him to just to wake up one day and do a rock album is

not okay. I feel disrespected as a musician. He's just putting it out here like anything goes."

Lil' Wayne began his music career when he was discovered by the CEO of Cash Money Records, Brian "Birdman" Williams. In 1993, Lil' Wayne joined forces with fellow Cash Money Records rapper BG releasing the album, "True Stories."

Four years later, Lil' Wayne became a part of the New Orleans rap group, "The Hot Boys." The group released the album, "Get it How U Live." He continued to produce multiple certified gold albums until releasing the platinum-selling album, "The Carter" which marked the beginning of Lil' Wayne's explosive rise to stardom.

For more information about "Rebirth" or Lil' Wayne visit <http://www.cashmoney-records.com> [www.cashmoney-records.com](http://www.cashmoney-records.com).

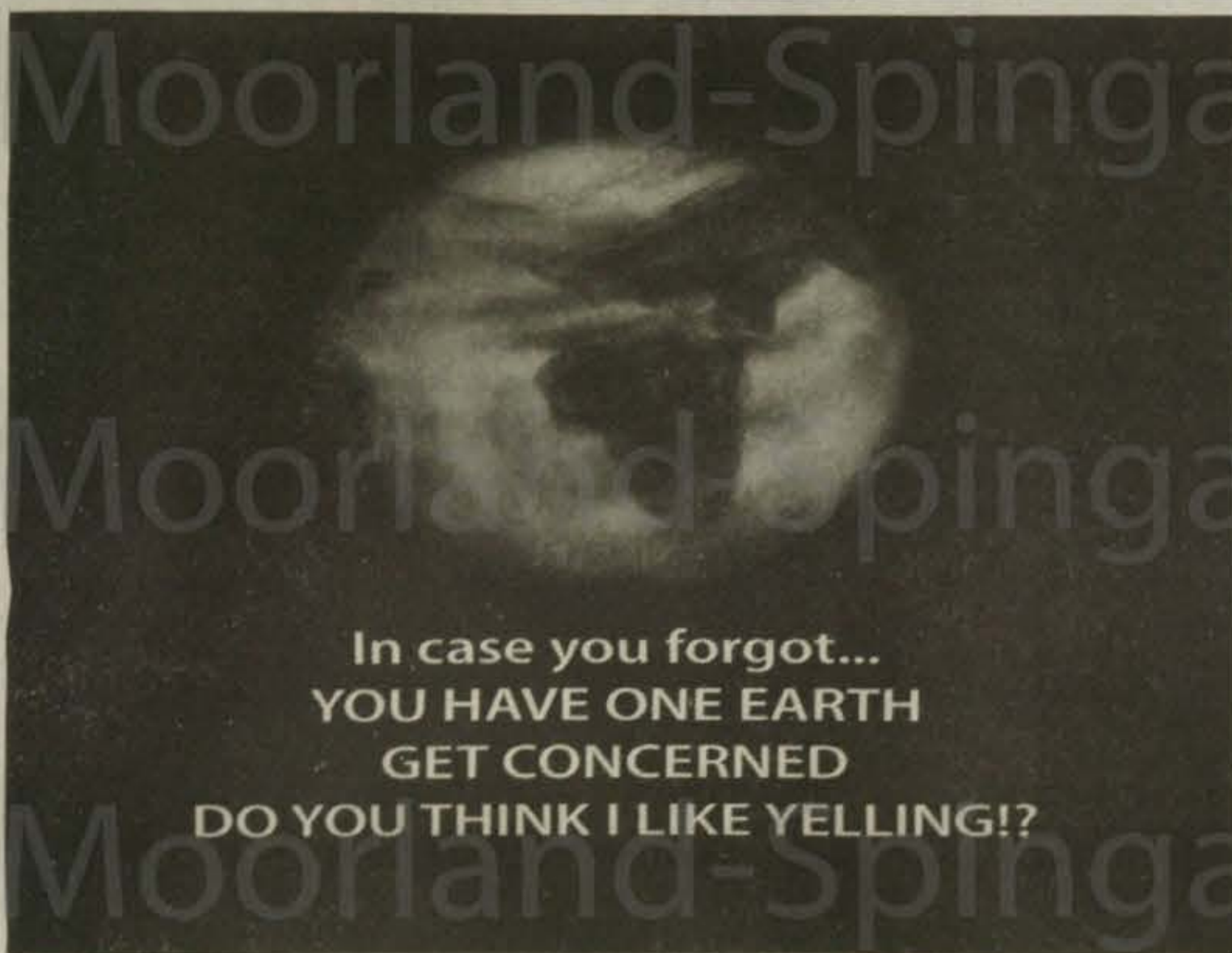


Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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



In case you forgot...  
**YOU HAVE ONE EARTH  
 GET CONCERNED  
 DO YOU THINK I LIKE YELLING!?**

Charles Melis - Cartoonist

Perspectives

Footballer Calls Foul

To The Howard University Community,

Over the past week, I have been bombarded with the same question, "WHY IS THE FOOTBALL TEAM SO WRECKLESS?" This question is in regards to the events that took place Friday, April 10, 2009. However, when I respond to the question and begin to provide the actual facts concerning that night, I get the impression that the TRUTH is not important to the people posing the original question.

I have been at Howard University for four semesters (similar to Ms. Jenelle Diljohn whose inaccuracies prompted me to write this letter) and I am a student-athlete, a member of the football team, and I have never been in a fight on or off campus since my matriculation began. I am concerned and somewhat disappointed that Ms. Diljohn would write such an irresponsible article that vilifies students on the football team without researching the facts surrounding the night in question. I would expect much more from a member of the School of Education Student Council. However, we do live in a free society where everyone is entitled to his or her own opinion, regardless of how incorrect it may be when compared to the facts.

On Friday, April 10, 2009, a fight did take place in front of Cook Hall. However, I am amazed it was not mentioned that only three student-athletes on the

football team were fighting, and that they were fighting in SELF-DEFENSE. Nor was it mentioned that the three football team members were jumped by 14 other students on this campus who do not reside in Cook Hall. This "mob of 14" Howard University students took it upon themselves to march to Cook Hall at 2 a.m. in order to, "Deal with the ball players," and "To protect the Bros." When they arrived at Cook Hall, they proceeded to verbally and physically assault three lone student football players, who at the time were minding their own business. The student football players tried to reason with the mob that descended upon Cook Hall, but in the middle of reason, the "mob of 14" decided they were going to punch first and ask questions later. Unfortunately for the "mob of 14," the results did not turn out as planned, and most of them were sent to the hospital. The three football players have filed charges with Campus Police and Metro police in order to protect themselves against further attacks.

I am as appalled as anyone at the fact that students chose to respond with physicality as opposed to reason. Yet, I am equally appalled that any time a student-athlete is involved in a negative situation, guilt is automatically assumed. As a student at Howard University, I understand that we all share in promoting this great institution locally and globally. I

also understand that every student on this campus does not embrace that ideology.

College is not a place for thugs, nor is it a place for individuals who choose to bring street life to a university campus. Assembling a mob and marching to a dorm at 2 a.m. for the sole purpose of engaging in brutality is not how a person of reason responds to a problem. We are at Howard University for the purpose of attaining the best education possible, and to represent the university to the best of our ability. As a student-athlete, it is understood we all live in a glass bubble. If I do something good no one cares, and if I do something bad then the whole world says, "I told you so." I take great pride in representing Howard University in the classroom and on the playing field.

Furthermore, as a college student, I understand the power of the written word. Therefore, it is critical for one to research what will be written before it is put onto paper. That is not only responsible journalism, but it is responsible citizenship.

I am glad that dialogue has been opened concerning the assault that took place in front of Cook Hall. Hopefully, it will allow all of the facts to come out and not just random gossip.

Respectfully,  
 - Mr. Theodore Roosevelt  
 Graham IV, sophomore,  
 international business major

Inauguration, Ribeau Questioned

Washington, D.C. has two new leaders expected to bring change this year: the U.S. president, Barack Obama, is expected to change America's image and economy, while Howard's new president, Sidney Ribeau, Ph.D., is expected to lead an administration that will actually work for the students instead of against them. Unfortunately, change does not come overnight. The U.S. is still in a recession; Obama has made a few typical Washington/political moves, and Dr. Ribeau, you have made some typical Howard moves.

First of all, why was there an extravagant series of events for Ribeau's inauguration when just the week prior, there were no classes due to the university-wide furlough? With another furlough day planned and TWO more after that to be taken by Ribeau's executive staff, aren't there some more appropriate places we could have allocated that inauguration money

to? That's Ribeau's first Howard-esque move: fiscal irresponsibility.

Next, who was ever invited to the inauguration? Sure, if you were a leader in Howard's "Inner Circle" of student government, Greek life, and other organizations, you got an invite to sit in the audience, but who ever advertised that the event was open to students? Michelle Obama stopped by Howard almost unannounced and School of Business students — myself included — were locked out of a class or two. Why would we assume that an event with Bill Cosby, Vernon Jordan and Earl Graves is open to the proletariat students? Charter Day dinner is not. Convocation Brunch is not. Why would the students assume they were invited in the first place? Were there not enough high-level alumni donors in the area to fill the vacant seats? This would be Ribeau's second Howard-esque move: keeping the students out of the loop. Even the students on

the Student's First Campaign are from the same cloth of typical HU student leadership. I got an invite, but that's because I know all of Student Activities on a first-name basis.

Finally, when celebrities come to Howard or there is a big event where student attendance is needed, there are announcements, Hilltopics or some ticket distribution in Blackburn. HU basketball and football games are FREE to attend, and even they are not well attended! So if Ribeau wants more students to show up and support, he needs to make good on his promise of putting the students first. There was a reason we didn't like H. Patrick Swygert. Please don't forget who you represent as president, and with enough notice, yes we will be at your next big event.

-Baker G. Blanding,  
 graduating senior  
 marketing major

The Hilltop wishes their fellow Bison much success during the finals season! Study hard and reap the benefits!

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 The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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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.

It's never over...  
 Look out for opportunities  
 to write for the Hilltop  
 online over the summer.



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.

The College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Health Sciences Student Council would like to Congratulate the 2009 CPNAHS Graduates!!!

**Make Your Opinion Count.** Attend a Department of Journalism Town Hall 7:00 PM Wednesday, April 22 Room G-10 in the C.B. Powell Bldg. Sponsored by ADVANCE, Student Council.

**WAKE UP. YOU ARE OPPRESSED.**

*The Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Present: May Week 2009 "Dimensions of Sustainable Traditions: Actively Promoting Continuity in Our Communities" 4/21/09 "Educational Disparity: Left Behind in a World Moving Forward" TBD 7:00pm 4/22/09 "Dangerously in Love: Ending Violence Against Women" Blackburn Digital Auditorium 7:00pm "Must wear Denim" 4/23/09 "Taboo: The Unspoken Truth about the AIDS Epidemic" Blackburn Room 148/150 12:00pm-3:00pm 4/24/09 "School House Politics: Preparing Our Youth for the Future" 10:00am-12:00pm "Pan-Hellenic Community Service*

**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 or call 301-249-8880.**

**CPNAHS Student Council, We've been Through the W.I.R.E and now It's About T.I.M.E! Thanks for a great year! Love, Melissa**

**ARE YOU UP TO THE AMERICORPS CHALLENGE? HEADS UP IS SEEKING HOWARD UNIVERSITY STUDENTS** Co-lead your own elementary school class \$4,500 living stipend (may apply FWS) \$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.headsup-dc.org/involved/AmeriCorps.html> For more info contact: [mney@heads-up-dc.org](mailto:mney@heads-up-dc.org)

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**CHARLES TAYLOR**  
21 CAP Team 2J, The School of Business Executive Leadership Honors Program, Howard University Revolution, OriGenius Company, H.U.S.A. Policy Board, H.U. Entrepreneurial Society, N.A.B.A., The Hilltop Newspaper & The School of Business Student Council would like to congratulate you for graduating from the Mecca and also thank you for your many Contributions to HU and the D.C. Community!



**BBA: Accounting Lawton, OK**

# ? WHAT'S UP with Buyback?

**A** good college education doesn't come cheap these days, and that includes the price of textbooks. To help make textbooks more affordable for students, the Howard University Bookstore (HUB) tries to stock as many reduced - priced used books as possible. Where does the HUB get used copies? Mainly from college students like you who no longer need their books.

Buying back used books benefits students in two ways. Students get money for books they don't want any more, and they are ensured that there will be a supply of used books for the next term.

But students may be unhappy with the amount of money they receive for their used books. And they're even less happy if the store is unable to buy back certain books. Here are some students' most frequently asked questions about buyback and the answers.

**Why do I get more for some books than others at buyback?**  
The value of a used book depends on if that particular book is going to be use by your instructors for the next semester. Books that are going to be used will usually have higher value than books that will be sent to wholesalers for resale elsewhere.

If the bookstore receives an order from an instructor that the book will be assigned again next term on this campus, then the store will buy back copies for resale here. Usually the store will be able to pay a higher value for that book, possibly as much as half the price of a new book.

If the book is not going to be assigned on this

campus next semester, the HUB will check with the wholesale book companies to find out the national market value for the book. Wholesalers buy used books that will be resold across the country. The national market value, which is set by the wholesalers, not the HUB, is often a much smaller percentage of the original retail price. That's because the wholesaler must add in the cost of shipping and other normal business expenses to the resale price.

**Why did my friend get more for the same book than I got?**  
The national market value for a particular book may fluctuate a lot, based on the changing supply and demand for that book nationwide.

If your friend received a higher value from the store and you got the lower national market value, then it was probably a matter of timing. The store may have already reached its campus quota (based on projected class enrollment for the next term) by the time you brought your book in.

Or, if you sold your copy before your friend, the store may not have received the instructor's book order yet and therefore could only offer the lower national market value at that time. The store cannot buy books for resale on this campus until the instructor sends in his or her book order for next term.

**The store won't buy back some books. I bought these books just a couple of months ago. How can they be worthless now?**  
There are many reasons why a book might be turned down for buyback. The store and/or the wholesaler may have reached their quota.

Possibly the book is not being used anywhere next term, particularly if it is highly specialized or customized. The publisher may be replacing the book with a new, updated edition next term. The book may be part of a required package of items that cannot be sold separately. Your copy may not be salable due to a broken cover, missing or torn pages, excessive highlighting or marking, offensive marks, stains, water damage, or missing CD.

**I paid a lot of money for my books. Why doesn't the store give me more for them?**  
Used books are provided by the HUB as a less expensive alternative for students. Paying more at buyback means the store would have to raise the retail prices of used books.

**Why doesn't the store sell used books for the same price that they were brought at buyback?**  
The store must add an amount to the price of all merchandise - including used books - to help cover the store's normal operating expenses, such as staff wages and benefits; mortgage or rent payments; electricity, heat, water and air conditioning; insurance and taxes; checkout systems; shelving; security; cleaning and repairs; supplies; and other expenses.

