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WEATHER

 **73**
63
Tomorrow:
 **76**
64

Established
1924



THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 93, NO. 7

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Monday, August 31, 2009

Monday's Notebook

CAMPUS

READ ABOUT THE NEW COLUMNISTS WHO WILL BE CONTRIBUTING TO THE CAMPUS SECTION FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.

PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD

LOOKING FOR A JOB? READ MORE ABOUT NETWORKING WEBSITES FOR UNEMPLOYED PROFESSIONALS.

PAGE 4

SPORTS

PUNISHMENT TOO HARSH FOR STAR ATHELETS? FIND OUT WHAT STUDENT ATHELETS THINK ON PAGE 5.

PAGE 5

The Nation of Islam Student Association Returns to Campus After More Than 10 Years

BY CAMILLE AUGUSTIN
& JESSICA LEWIS
Hilltop Staff

Approximately 10 years ago, students could not walk the Yard without seeing a member of the Nation of Islam Student Association. Members dominated student government and served as the eyes, ears and voice of Howard University; but slowly, this voice dissipated into a whisper until Friday, when members came out roaring.

According to Brother Jalil Muhammad, junior history major and member of the Nation of Islam, Friday was the first time in over two decades that the association participated in campus events. On the first Friday of the semester, members of the Muhammad Mosque No. 7 from Harlem showed off their discipline in a drill exhibition.

"We have always been present," Muhammad said. "Today marks the beginning of our official return."

Sister Akilah Muhammad, sophomore film production major, said the return is to bring back the Nation of Islam of the 90's. According to Muhammad, Howard had a chapel mosque with regular service every Sunday; the past presidents of the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) were members of the Nation also and the organization was respected and revered.

"The Nation of Islam is a nation of peace and righteousness formed for serving the needs of black people and all of human kind. It is the spiritual, mental and economic resurrection of black



Zelena Williams - Photo Editor

Members of Muhammad Mosque No. 7 in Harlem, New York were invited to Howard University to perform by the Nation of Islam Student Association.

people in America, in particular, but all of humanity," said Jalil Muhammad. "We teach them not only who they are, but who God is."

Brother Tariq Muhammad X, member of Muhammad Mosque No. 7, said their job is not to convert people to Islam but to try to make a difference in the

community. In his own community, Muhammad X said that drug dealers were taking over until he and his brothers banded together in an effort to clean up and preserve their neighborhood.

"It teaches you to be a man. It teaches you to be a soldier, stand up for what you believe in," said Ishmael Muhammad from

Muhammad Mosque No. 7. "We believe in Allah. There's nothing spooky about what we're doing. We all believe in one God."

Akilah Muhammad said that the group visiting the university is just a start and that soon, students will be aware of a student association that focuses on the empowerment of African-

Americans. As a continuation of last year the association will host forums asking the questions: "What is black consciousness?" "How do we value the black woman?" and other controversial topics.

The association plans to

> See **Nation of Islam**, page 2

Obama Delivers Kennedy's Eulogy

BY MARQUIS H. BARNETT
Nation & World Editor

Senator Edward "Ted" Kennedy was laid to rest on Saturday in Arlington, Virginia following a service at Kennedy's home church in Boston, Massachusetts.

President Obama gave Senator Kennedy's eulogy calling

him an "extraordinary leader," and often referencing the late Senator's tenacity on the floor of the senate.

Edward was the youngest of the Kennedy brothers and was buried alongside the late President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Both John and Robert were assassinated more than 40 years ago.

A prayer service was held outside the U.S. Capitol.

Students Flock to the Valley for the 2nd Annual All-White Party



Zelena Williams - Photo Editor

The Howard University Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) hosted their second annual all-white party in the Valley last night, giving students a chance to don their all-white attire before the Labor Day Holiday.

UGSA representative Adam Flores said they decided to bring the all-white party back for another year after the success of the event last year.

"It started last year with a luau," said Flores. "Decided to make a change; thought the luau was old and needed a new look." The theme of the event was "The Enlightenment."

Zelena Williams, Photo Editor



Brian Snyder - Africa Press (MCT)

Close friends and family of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy gather for funeral services in Boston, Massachusetts.

INDEX

Campus **2**

Nation & World **4**

Sports **5**

Editorials & Perspectives **7**

Hilltopics **8**



"What then? shall we win, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid."
- Romans 7:15

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Campus Co-editor

The first time Reverend Howard-John Wesley, PhD, stepped foot on campus was 1993 for homecoming, and he was not here for God's work.

According to Wesley, perfection is not mandatory to be a vessel for the Lord's work because everyone slips up. Biblically speaking, Wesley said God's vessels are usually imperfect human beings with temptations, who slip up just like the rest of us.

"Every time my mind is made up, I find myself doing the thing I have no business doing," Wesley admitted referring to the book of Roman, chapter 7.

To break down the meaning for the congregation in attendance, Wesley recites, "Why must I be like that? Why must I chase the cat? Nothing but the dog in me," quoting the "Atomic Dog"

lyrics.

Wesley told the congregation to turn to their neighbors and say, "bow wow."

He asked the congregation how many times they have knelt down and said to the Lord, "Lord if you just get me out of this..."

He said that a lot of times people treat church as a museum of saints and the holy, but church is a rehabilitation clinic because we are all "strung out." He assured listeners that we are all in this together and that no one should turn their nose up at another.

"Stop letting people disqualify you," Wesley said.

He went on to say that one cannot deliver themselves from evil because evil is always present. It is not because it is following us, but because evil is in us all. One cannot deliver themselves from themselves.

"I've got to give God thanks," Wesley said. "Even

though I've got the dog in me, I've got a reason to rejoice."

To welcome Wesley to chapel and prepare the congregation for his sermon, the Howard Gospel Choir sang, "I am grateful for the things that you have done. I am grateful for the victories we've won. I could go on and on and on about your words because I'm grateful, grateful, so grateful just to praise you Lord."



Ryan C. Hamilton - Photo Editor

Back To Black: The Nation Of Islam Returns

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

hold a relationship workshop featuring Nisa Islam, who was featured in CNN's "Black in America 2," on Sept. 23.

According to Muhammad X, the Nation of Islam is trying to strengthen our brotherhood, our family. He said that it is about building a family to protect your brother and being there for one another to fight obstacles that may seem insurmountable.

Muhammad X said Muhammad Mosque No. 7 hosts drill exhibitions on a regular basis to allow the community to become familiar with their purpose to eliminate alienation.

"When youth see this, when they see something completely out of the norm, it's like a shock," Ishmael Muhammad said.

The exhibition team has traveled to Atlanta where they won a competition, in an effort to reach out to youth across the nation.

According to Jalil Muhammad, the Nation teaches people to be economically industrious, morally astute and how to love themselves and one another.

At a school in Long Island, Muhammad Mosque No. 7 ran a series of drills, which taught students respect and discipline. Muhammad X said that teachers were amazed to see their students exhibit respectful behavior.

Muhammad X said that he believes that students had to learn to respect themselves and expect to be respected in return; a trait he said is missing from their education.

"Over the years the Nation of Islam Student Association just stopped being present, but we are here to bring it back," Akliah Muhammad said.



Students from the Nation of Islam Student Association and the Muhammad Mosque No. 7 gathered on the stairs of the Blackburn Student Center.

Introducing "The Voices on Campus" Columnists: What is Howard University's Biggest Challenge?

Howard University Student Association Presents...



Umoja

BY JEROME JOSPEH
Contributing Columnist

The question presented in the title of this piece is an inevitable thought when one considers Howard University. We all love this place, but at the same time there are certain shortcomings that are very visible. With that being said, I believe that Howard University's biggest challenge is **ITSELF**.

The university is in a very delicate state right now. We are at the end of President Sidney A. Ribeau's first year in office, over 300 employees have parted ways with the university via the NSIRP (Voluntary Separation Incentive Retirement Program) and one of the largest classes to date has begun their matriculation at the Mever. President Ribeau proclaims himself on putting students first and has made that his primary agenda since setting foot on campus last year. However, historically every Howard University President who has claimed to be "students first" has been bumped out of the position by students. This may be no fault of his, but to that of those who surround him. Everyone surrounding him is not in line with the vision he has for the university and we urge him to realize this fact because it could be his downfall. We may have a new President, but most of the same, old people from H. Patrick Swygert's regime remain behind the scenes. The time is now for new blood here at Howard University...

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BY LLEWINTINA KING
Contributing Columnist

For the past 142 years Howard University has created prominent doctors, lawyers, engineers and teachers, among many other professions, however as 2010 looms around the corner a question comes to mind: "Has Howard University lived up to its legacy and when will it surpass its history?"

As I look around campus, sit in various buildings, attend variety events or simply hear the rumors about the current situation at Howard University, I wonder what exactly is being done by Howard students. We've simply become complacent with the 1963 building structures, the constant cuts of educational programs as well as the devaluing of Howard's prominent education. As school starts students will be faced with the challenges of bigger classes with fewer professors and an even smaller pot of resources.

Our biggest challenge as students of Howard University is how we plan to refurbish and recreate the legacy rather than resting upon it. As I look through Howard's rich history, I notice the will and determination of the student body. Whether they've rose up together to protest the state of the university or administrative individuals that don't exude the university's motto of truth and service, Howard students have taken a stand....

Read more on thehilltoponline.com

MOMENT OF CLARITY



BY ANDREW JONES
Contributing Columnist

The legacy of an institution should be reflective of its past as well as indicative of its future. Howard's biggest problem is that its legacy falls alarmingly short of future global relevancy.

Consider our past; Howard has long been associated with leadership in black politics, business, fashion, entertainment, and religion. In the predictable future, it will continue to be; yet that association is the greatest threat to the university. To be clear, I am not minimizing the importance of Howard's legacy in American history, or within the African-American community. I openly question the importance of Howard's future legacy within the global community.

In the past, there was a clear need for a university to educate black leaders for the black community. However, with increased globalization and opportunity for blacks at other universities, the clarity of that need has diminished.

The threat, then, is that a Howard solely identified with producing black leaders is simply not competitive with institutions identified with producing global leaders of all colors. Thurgood Marshall went to Howard because Maryland's law school was all white. Stokely Carmichael's radical rhetoric as a student leader would not have been tolerated anywhere but Howard...

Read more on thehilltoponline.com

The Transition



BY VICTORIA KIRBY
Contributing Columnist

We are currently facing the greatest economic downturn that this country has seen in over half a century. Universities across the country are facing record deficits. Many of them are cutting hundreds of staff and faculty members without compensation, implementing dramatic tuition increases, cutting valuable programs, and some are even closing their doors. Over the past year, Howard has also had to make complex decisions; some less popular than others, in order to not only survive, but to thrive. As a member of Howard's Board of Trustees last year, I had to make some serious decisions that I knew would affect some people that I have come to view as a part of my family. Decisions, that as a graduate student at Howard I have to cope with as well.

As many of you know, Howard was not immune to the calamity of the economic recession. We have had to deal with rising healthcare costs to cover our faculty, staff, students, and administrators; rising costs in energy; and a gaping deficit that has come as a result of costs increasing more quickly than our resources.

As a result, Howard raised the cost of tuition to a number more in line with our peers (even though they are still more costly than we are)...

Read more on thehilltoponline.com

Howard University Student Association Presents...

Umoja

BY BRYAN SMART
Contributing Columnist

Since I have been at Howard my eyes have been open to many things. Being raised in the South, I was not used to the fast pace of the East Coast.

My first semester opened my eyes to many things: life, people and Howard culture. Ever since, my scope has widened even more, and I have embraced the experience. What I have noticed is that Howard's biggest challenge is students not being aware of what power they truly have.

As students we are able to change anything that we put our minds to. Students have spoke out against apartheid, racism and discrimination and our own issues. The legacy is THE CURRENT STUDENTS. We have the capacity to assist an African American become president, so we can then sure address our own student issues.

We must not rest upon our President saying that student are first; however we must demand and assure that we are first! Ultimately, Howard was established for students.

So let's WAKE UP and take our rightful place. By WAKE UP, I mean that we do not put on a face that seems as if we know and understand that the weight of an oppressed people rest on our shoulders. Taking class seriously; taking our another serious; educating ourselves about issues that plague U.S. as people. Once we have equipped ourselves with the tools, we must then engage in intellectual warfare. As "Leaders for America and the Global Community", we must be the light for our people. By coming to Howard University, you accepted responsibility for not only yourself but our people...

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Donte Stallworth speaks with reporters after his court appearance for killing a pedestrian. Stallworth was sentenced to 30 days in jail with six years of probation.

Debate Continues on Severity of Athlete Punishments After Stallworth Case

BY HEATHER ROBINSON
Staff Writer

As opening night of the 2009 NFL season quickly approaches, the opening game between the Tennessee Titans and the defending champion Pittsburgh Steelers is receiving very little attention.

The cause for such minimal coverage can be attributed to the legal troubles of big name players, such as Plaxico Burress, Antonio Pierce, Donte Stallworth and Michael Vick.

It has not been a question of whether their actions were right or wrong, but rather, was the punishment fairly handed out to each player?

Burress plead guilty to one count of criminal gun possession, after shooting himself in the leg in a Manhattan nightclub last

November and will be spending two years in jail, starting as early as September. His former teammate, Antonio Pierce, was acquitted of all charges and has already rejoined the New York Giants in training camp.

Vick signed with the Philadelphia Eagles after serving his 23-month sentence for his involvement in running a dog fighting operation in 2007. He returned to the field in a preseason game against the Jacksonville Jaguars but could be suspended for up to the first six weeks of the regular season.

Stallworth is five months removed from the night of March 14 in which he struck Mario Reyes, a crane operator for Bernuth Agencies, killing Reyes before emergency technicians could arrive at the scene. Stallworth had a blood-alcohol level of .126, nearly two

times the legal Florida blood-alcohol limit of .08, and also had traces of marijuana in his system.

Stallworth plead guilty to second degree manslaughter and was sentenced to 30 days in jail, two years house arrest, six years probation, 1,000 hours of community service and a lifetime suspension of his Florida state driver's license. Stallworth is also serving a one year suspension without pay from the NFL for his conviction.

"I think it is ludicrous that someone can walk away from murder with such little time served, but animal cruelty carries such a hefty penalty. It is outrageous," Keith Mayo, a junior finance major, said. "America's penal system is completely out of whack."

The controversial rulings have led many fans to log onto message boards, blogs and other social networks, creating a massive debate over which crime was

more severe and if the punishment matched the crime.

The consensus: Stallworth should have spent more than 24 days in prison for taking another man's life.

In his first public interview since the accident, Stallworth said on ESPN's "E:60" how deeply affected he was by the events that took place on the morning of March 14 and vowed to never mix alcohol with driving again.

"If I ever so much as take a sip of alcohol and I get behind the wheel and drive, after what had happened on March 14, I would be spitting on Mr. Reyes' grave," Stallworth said.

Stallworth will be confined to his high-rise condo in Miami for killing a man, while Burress will be spending the next two years in a New York penitentiary for shooting himself in the leg.

Religion v. Passion



BY HEATHER ROBINSON
Staff Writer

In a society that has often been called racist although more than 1.6 million of its citizens are foreigners, Switzerland basketball authorities have taken a step back in the country's attempt to prove themselves to be humane no matter the ethnicity or background.

Since 2000, the extremist Swiss politicians have tried to abolish the wearing of head scarves in the work environment because it challenged the country's religious background.

Sura Al-Shawk must now make the decision of whether her passion for basketball is stronger than her religious beliefs.

Here is a girl 19 years of age and she is being told she must defy her religion or be forced to give up the opportunity to play basketball.

"I really can't understand what is happening here," Al-Shawk said to the Swiss newspaper *Neue Luzerner Zeitung*. "I would not have thought it possible that in a country like Switzerland a head scarf in sport would pose a problem."

The Swiss league, ProBasket, said their reason for the change in rules is due to the FIBA rule book, which says, "the sport has to be neutral, forbidding religious symbols and head covers."

What is the point of such a rule? FIBA nor ProBasket have ever stopped a player from playing with a cross around their neck or made someone cover up a religious tattoo. So why is a woman who has done nothing more than follow her dream and maintain a healthy relationship with her religion be forced into an ultimatum?

Track & field, governed by the IAAF, has been a professional sport centuries before basketball and yet there has never been the banning of religious symbols.

The United States is no god when it comes to setting an example for others, especially when it comes to racism and equality, but there would be no way, let alone in the 21st Century, that such a ruling could be passed and go by unscathed.

If the WNBA had banned head scarves and openly attacked the Muslim community, that would be the end of a league that has just started to reach its upside; there would be no sponsors and few fans.

In recent years, the one controversial decision that has been made by any of the major U.S. professional sports leagues has been Commissioner David Stern's ruling against "thuggish" attire in the NBA and the enforcement of collared shirts.

The difference: That was an issue of challenging a trend in a culture, not a religious custom.

Yes, Stern should have re-worded the name he gave the attire most NBA players were wearing at the time, but let's get real, the suit and tie looks more professional than the throwback jerseys and sneakers.

So what is Sura Al-Shawk to do? Whatever her decision, ProBasket has made it clear how they feel about the situation. "If basketball is priority No. 1, international rules have to be respected. If religion is priority No. 1, then you cannot play basketball."

It's unfair and disheartening to think that human beings can be so divided simply because of a person's ethnicity or religious and political views. A woman is being punished not for committing a crime, but for having a strong religious faith and openly practicing that faith. Where's the humanity in that?

Football Team to Tackle Improvement

BY TERRICKA JOHNSON
Staff Writer

As the first game of the football season nears closer, the men of the Howard University football team anticipate what could possibly be a year of redemption.

After a disappointing record of 1-10 last season, the Bison are geared up and ready for what they hope to make a winning season.

The shift to a more focused and disciplined team seems to be the change the team claims to have gained and strengthened during their time away from the gridiron.

"What has changed from last year is the level of focus. Everybody is together and everybody is trying to be one team instead of individuals, compared to last year," Gerald Jackson, a senior administration of justice major and defensive back, said.

Already three years into their regime under head coach, Carey Bailey, the coaching staff hopes to redeem the Bison of the past years of an uphill struggle.

Andre Creamer, a third-year defensive coordinator for the team, said changing the mind state of the team has been one of the coaching staff's main objec-

tives.

"When we first got here, the young men at Howard believed football was more of a club sport, and that's how they were carrying and conducting themselves," Creamer said. "But since we have been here, we've been trying to change that mentality."

The players themselves said they have also noticed a change in their own train of thought, when it comes to the field.

"The overall team morale has changed," Jordan Faust, a junior political science major and tight end, said. "We all have a better mind set. Our work ethic is better, and we are doing what we are supposed to do."

While Coach Creamer believes the MEAC division champs from last year, South Carolina State, are the team's biggest competitor for the season, the players have an earlier adversity they are ready to tackle.

"I think the biggest competition will be our first game against Rutgers. They are 1-A and they are ranked No. 18 in the



The Bison football team are looking forward to improving on their record of 1-10 last season by having a different attitude towards the game.

nation right now," Jackson said.

With the season commencing September 12 against Rutgers, the Bison will also be facing their usual MEAC counterparts, along with the Georgetown Hoyas.

Though many are unsure of what to expect from the Bison, they are sure of their ability to take the program to the next level with the upcoming season.

"I do not have any numbers, but I feel as though we should do much better this year

than compared to last year because of the new recruits we have and people's overall attitudes," Faust.

Bradley Bush-Johnson, a freshman offensive linebacker, may be new to the team and university, but already has high hopes for the 2009 season.

"Like my coach said 'I and 10, never again,' Bush-Johnson said. "It won't happen again. I'm looking forward to seeing how our football team does."

Sports Trivia!
What track and field star was the first athlete to win four gold medals in the Olympic Games?
Answer:
Jesse Owens in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Germany

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY
August 31, 1895
1st pro football game played (Starting QB John Brallier paid \$10 and won 12-0).



WHO WILL WEAR THE CROWN?

What school will the next Mr. and Miss Howard University represent?
PAGEANT INTEREST MEETING

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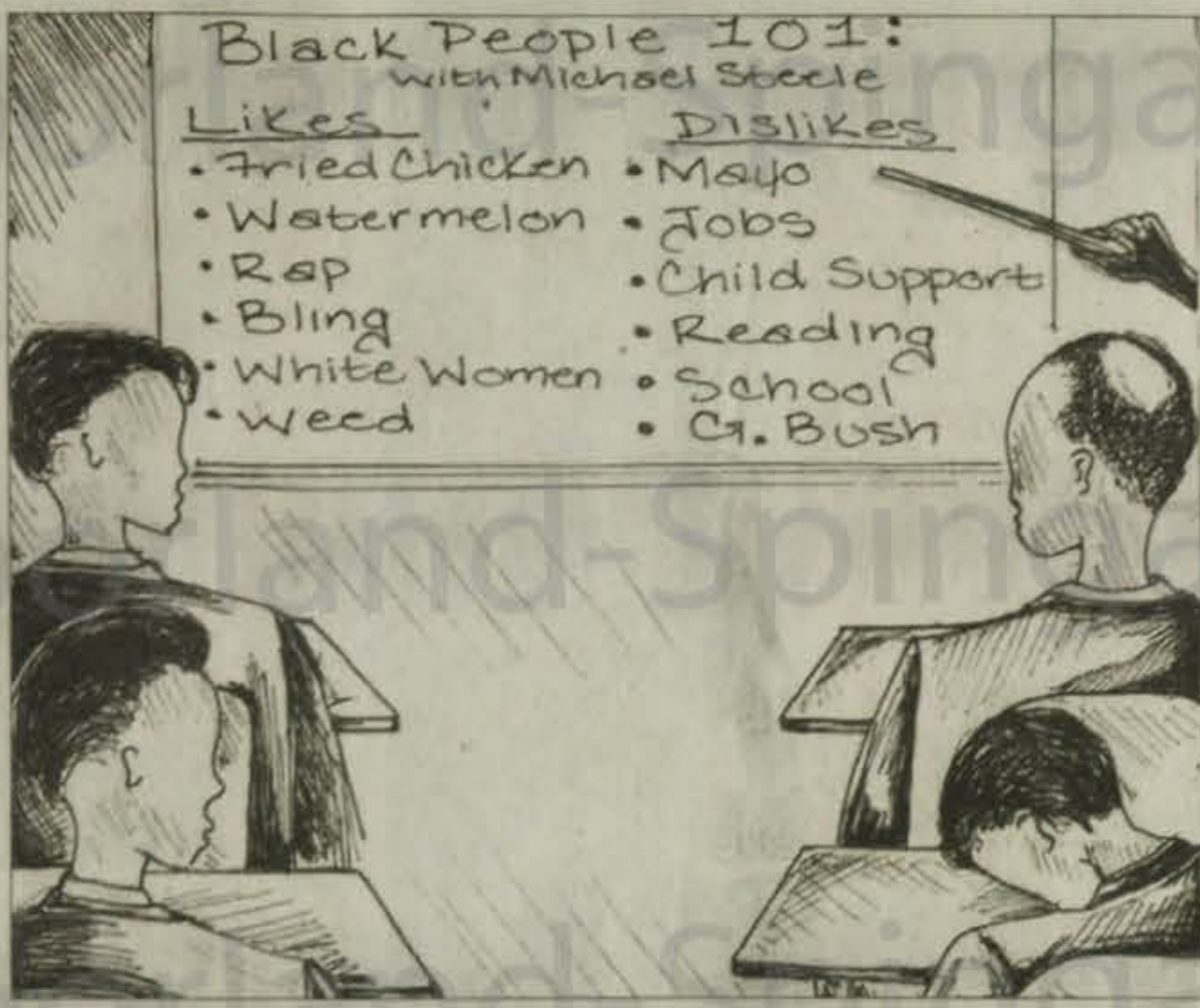
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Michael Steele Offers Chicken, Potato Salad

Republican National Committee Chairman, Michael Steele, made some comments a few weeks ago that left a sour taste in the mouths of the black community.

At a small conference with Steele, a blogger asked Steele how he would recruit more "diverse populations" to the Republican Party. Steele replied "my plan is to say 'y'all come,' cause most of y'all are already here."

At this point, a member of the audience exclaimed, "I got the collard greens."

Steele replied, "I got the fried chicken and potato salad."

Take a moment. Digest it.

If you didn't know, Steele is a Black man.

How should the black community feel about a man who jokes about known stereotypes about his own ethnic background in front of members of another ethnic group? It's one thing to make jokes about your people when you're with your people, but, as a black man,

he needs to understand that other people may think it's okay for them to repeat these things, and pass these generalizations as truths, just because he did.

Reaching out to the black community by addressing the problems that the majority of non-Republican black people experience would have been

specify which "diverse populations" he may or may not have had in mind. What if an audience member would have shouted out something equally as offensive about gay people or even handicapped people? Would he have taken it a step further and offended them as well?

The color of his skin does not give him permission to openly perpetuate stereotypes. He, of all people, should be fighting to eradicate these stereotypes. Would he have really worked his way up to the Republican National Committee if people didn't fight to remove these stereotypes from the minds of those who sought to keep black people down? Probably not.

Michael Steele will be hosting a town-hall-style meeting tomorrow, September 1, in the Armour J. Blackburn University Center, West Ballroom. The event is being sponsored by The College Republicans, College Democrats, and the Political Science Society.

Our View:
You're not attracting anyone to your party by perpetuating stereotypes.

a better way to attract more Black people to the party.

Steele later makes claims that Republicans are the reason that blacks are free and able to enjoy the luxuries of the Constitution. Unfortunately, his statements were inaccurate. Another failed attempt to recruit more blacks.

The blogger who asked the question did not

"Do not fear to be eccentric in opinion, for every opinion now accepted was once eccentric."

-Bertrand Russell

**Have an opinion?
Share it with us!**

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Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

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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.

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