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Established
1924

THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 93, NO.9

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Wednesday, September 2, 2009

Wednesday's Notebook

CAMPUS

READ ABOUT HOW ONE HOWARD STUDENT STAYS ON THE GRIND TO ACHIEVE HIS GOALS.

NATION & WORLD

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY DISAGREES WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PLAN TO INVESTIGATE THE CIA

SPORTS

ATHLETES BOASTING AFTER WINNING IS LEAVING A BAD TASTE IN PEOPLE'S MOUTHS.

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Health Care Discussed in Townhall Meeting

Michael Steele
Speaks on Health
Care

BY VICTORIA FORTUNE
Staff Writer

The crowd patiently waited as the Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Michael Steele, entered the Blackburn ballroom. Once he did, Steele was met with a warm greeting from the audience.

The purpose of the town hall meeting was to provide the community with an opportunity to be educated about Republican policies that work to revive urban and rural areas. The purpose, however, was not completely fulfilled.

Although Steele did touch on health care, his upbringing, and student aspirations, he failed to speak about policies concerning the GOP.

"I was very disappointed for the simple fact that it wasn't really a dialogue," said Travan Hurst, a health care management major. "It was more of him asking questions and giving filler answers. What really did we accomplish? We learned a lot about him, nothing about the party."

When a question was asked about health care, Steele laughingly referred to a conversation he and his wife had with his son who now has to purchase his own insurance. A shout from Towson University student Amanda Duzak in the audience interrupted



Michael Steele, chairman of the Republican National Committee, came to Howard University to answer questions about health care in a townhall meeting.

Steele's anecdote and changed the atmosphere.

Duzak's mother died of cancer that went untreated because the family could not afford all medications required to treat the illness.

Steele said, fundamentally, he agreed with her statement.

"Everyone in the country needs health care. Everyone in the country should not be left by that roadside," Steele said. "While you have a personal story, so do I, but I don't need to shout it for people to understand."

In response to Duzak's continued protests, Steele said,

"So when people go to town halls, they go out to the communities and they're like this. It makes for great T.V., you'll probably make it tonight. Enjoy it."

After the town hall meeting ended, Duzak clarified her comments. "My intentions were not to get on the news," Duzak

said. "My intentions were to help people. Everyone in the world can't be in his position, not in this world is everyone equal."

Howard University professor of political theory and black politics, Professor Nenaji

> See **STEELE**, page 3



Workers in Postal Service are set to receive \$15,000 to leave their jobs.

Postal Service Offers Buyouts to Workers

BY ALEXIS K. BARNES
Business & Technology Editor

The U.S. Postal Service announced Tuesday it will offer \$15,000 buyouts to employees eligible for retirement and early retirement in an effort to cut costs and save money.

With the popularity of e-mail and electronic bill payments, the American Postal Workers Union and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union reached an agreement that is said to save the company as much as \$500 million in the next two years.

The offer has appealed to 30,000 employees who will receive \$15,000 to leave their employment.

Sophomore psychology

major, Elizabeth Hodge, said she would never take a buyout over steady employment.

"On one hand, a job occupies my time and is something reliable," she said. "That is not a lot of money and who knows when I'll be able to secure another job."

At a total cost of about \$450 million, the agency is attempting to counteract a downturn in business that contributed to a \$2.8 billion loss last year.

The Postal service projects a \$3 billion decrease in mail volume without an economic recovery.

"However unfair it may be, I do understand the Postal

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Students Ask Are There 'Any Other Options'

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Campus Editor

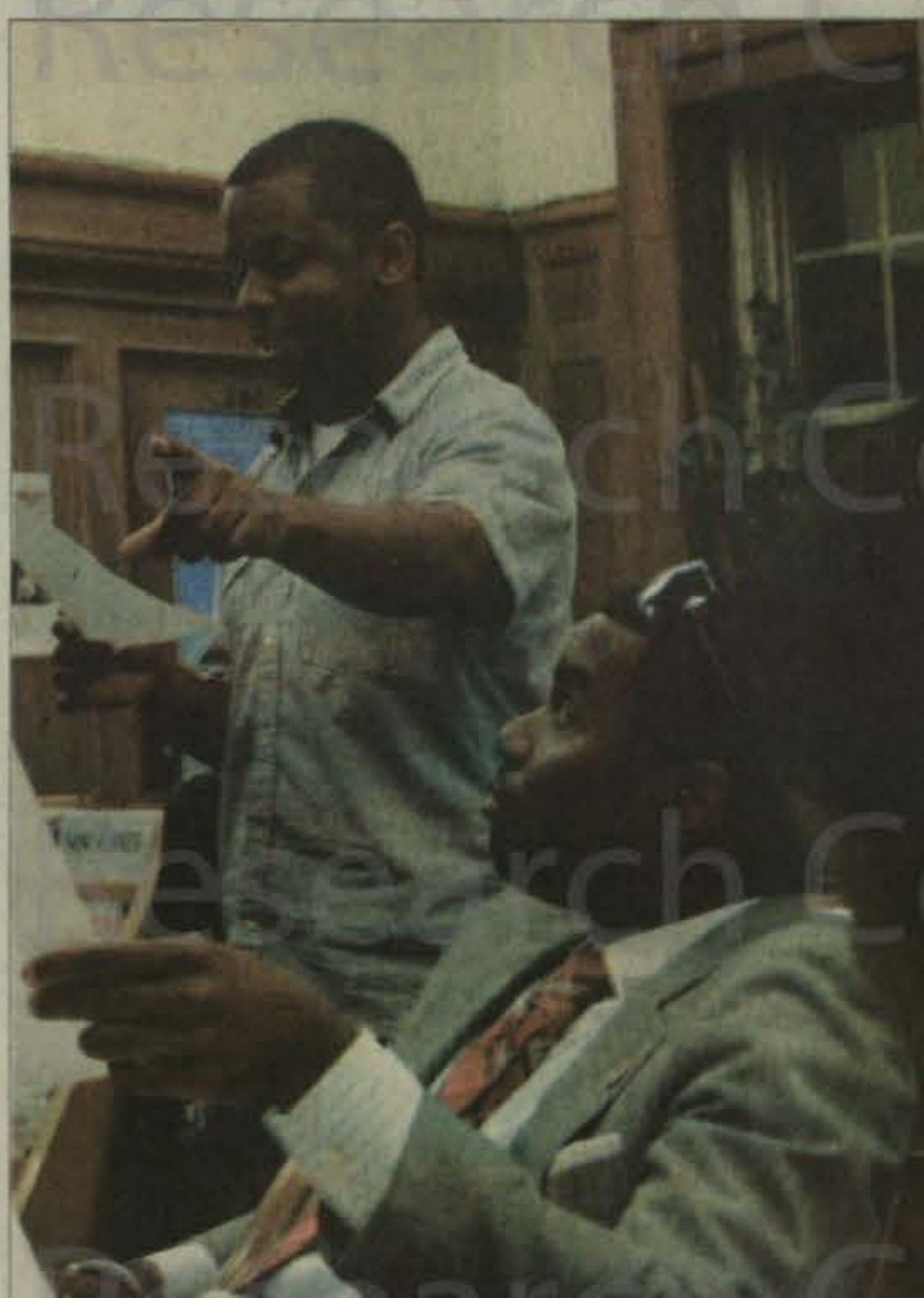
What drove Amanda Duzak out of her seat shouting at Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairman Michael Steele was a purple background and white question mark.

"We all need to work hard, but there are so many things that keep us down," said Duzak, a student at Towson University. "It's just that people work really hard. It's not just pull yourself up by the boot strap."

Duzak came to Howard University on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009, in an attempt to engage in dialogue with Steele about his stance on health care. However, she was discontent with the 30-minute answers to what she considered scripted questions.

"What is he even talking about? He didn't even touch on any of the main issues. No one should have to suffer," she said.

An educator from Virginia, Damian Smith, echoed the sentiments of Duzak. He said that he was amazed by the person seated behind the pair that shouted out that they would not pay for someone else's health care in a response to their public disagreement with



'Any Other Options?' campaign held a meeting to discuss health care reform.

Steele.

Smith responded by asking, "You're okay with paying for war in Iraq?"

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 46 million, or 18 percent of the population under 65, were without health care in 2007.

"This goes back to the lack of social responsibility these people have. It's good citizenship.

Why is this such a foreign, strange concept?" Smith said. "Can you imagine getting a bill from the fire department for your house catching on fire?"

Duzak said that without a public option in the health care bill, the government has done nothing. Duzak's reaction to Steele was a result of seeing her mother

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MOMENT OF CLARITY

Please Plan To Leave

BY ANDREW JONES
Contributing Columnist

I have an announcement to make, which might be surprising to some of you. Get ready, here it is: There is life beyond Howard. Scary thought, I know; yet much less scary when you actually plan for it. A significant problem with Howard students arises when they love Howard so much that they refuse to leave. According to Twitter, there are a number of students who recently discovered that they "never want to leave Howard." Needless to say, anyone with serious goals in life should be appalled by that statement. No student should find the pinnacle of success or life at a university. How short-sighted have we become when life is measured by semesters instead of accomplishments?

Those readers from Detroit will relate to me when I say I love the Northwest terminal in Detroit's airport. There is a Brooks Brothers, TGI Fridays, interesting people, intricate fountains and even a monorail. But as much as I love the airport, I understand it is not the destination. Howard is just like our favorite airport. We are here for a time, sometimes longer than expected for reasons beyond our control. Yet as much as we love it, the only reason we came here was to leave. That said, let's prepare for this flight.

First of all, the world beyond Howard will require you to have some sort of job or career. Interestingly enough, there are actually internships that prepare you to enter a career. You are never too young to intern, and no company, agency or organization will turn down a Howard student willing and able to work. These college years go by extremely fast, and if you fail to take time to prepare yourself for the next step, you will fail at the next step. Let us not focus all our efforts while at Howard on Howard; succeeding on Homecoming, Yearbook, *The Hilltop*, student government, greek life or as a Campus Pal is entirely separate from succeeding in life. Don't forget that.

I understand that everyone may not be able to find a job during this recession, and many elect to remain in school. While continuing education is commendable, using undergrad as a recession shelter is unacceptable. There are hundreds of graduate programs at global institutions available for Howard alumni, none of which include adding a semester or year to undergrad. Some of my closest friends are taking longer than four years to get their degrees, and it is perfectly understandable to do so when your situation dictates. However, don't use the recession or your mediocrity to justify your taking longer to finish than your peers.

Everyone should know that the majority of your life will be spent post-graduation. Knowing that, please plan for it. Proper planning prevents poor performance. Unlike Howard, in this world beyond college, poor performance will not be excused by your affiliations, compensated for with extra credit or condoned by your peer group. Don't say no one warned you.

Andrew Jones is a senior legal communications major. Read more of his columns on thehilltoponline.com

Made in Africa: African Business Council Urges Howard Students to Make Purchase

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON
Campus EditorPhotos Courtesy of Musleehat Hamadu
Students created a protest-like photo shoot to introduce PFA to the Howard University community.

In a world where almost everything flaunts a "Made In China" tag, Purchase From Africa (PFA) seeks change. In partnership with Whitaker Group, the African Business Club (ABC) introduces PFA, a campaign initiative to get retail corporations to source at least 20 percent of their cotton textiles from Africa starting with the Howard University Bookstore (HUB).

With the economic turmoil hitting the United States, textile sales have decreased especially in Africa.

According to ABC member and senior biology major, Musleehat Hamadu, The Whitaker Group, a non-governmental organization (NGO) spearheaded by the first assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa CEO Rosa Whitaker, chose Howard University as the start for PFA because of the embrace of

African culture among the Howard community.

Through this initiative, students of the African Business Club will sell student-designed T-shirts in the HUB with the same regular design on the outside but carry the name of Africa on the inside with tags saying "Made in Lesotho" or "Made in Uganda." The design of the T-shirts will be decided through a competition that students can enter.

"It's the same quality, at a competitive price," she said. "Something that also makes the workers in Africa different than those in China, where they usually work in sweatshops, is that they are just regular workers."

Hamadu said that the difference between the PFA campaign and other campaigns is that they are not asking you to patronize but to partner so that Africa can develop their own countries.

"It's important [PFA], as black students in general,

we all have a tie to Africa; we are Africans and members of the African diaspora," Hamadu said.

By selling apparel in the bookstore, the PFA campaign hopes to show corporations that Howard students are willing to spend money on shirts made in Africa and make retail corporations want to support cotton textiles from Africa.

But Howard University is just the first stop for the PFA campaign, they plan to expand to other Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

"Howard University has always been the Mecca, whether it's fashion to academics to social activism," Hamadu said. "As we have been pioneers in the past, we must continue our legacy and pilot this historic movement to partner with an Africa that is rising from poverty to take its rightful place in the community of nations."

A Summer Goal Becomes Reality

BY ASHLEY JOHNSON-ALFORD
Staff Writer

Behind every great song is a great producer, and behind every dream is a small start. Since he was 12 years old, sophomore business finance major, Chase Carter, has had dreams of becoming a producer. While his friends were busy recovering from freshman year, spending their summers lounging, Carter was working with programs like Reason 4.0, Pro Tool LE 7.3 and Acid 6.0 to create beats used all over Howard University's campus and across various states.

In 2008, Carter graduated from Montclair High School in Montclair, N.J. and spent the summer working at Macy's in West Orange, N.J. After night shifts of folding clothes and ringing customers, Carter went home to finish working on his major project—getting his production company, entitled Bang Musik Productions, off the ground. His logo was designed by Dereck Williams of Supply and Demand, LLC in early July 2008. His paychecks from Macy's funded the purchases of T-shirts and handbills that he personally designed, and from there he began his grind.

"With the promo materials in my possession, around mid-July I went to clubs and promoted my company and my music by handing out CDs to club promoters, owners and deejays," Carter said.

After receiving responses from DJ Cali Cali and Heavy Hitter DJ Wallah, and affiliation with Hollataintment Records, Ice Grill Entertainment and Elevation Beats, Carter landed a mentorship under P. Diddy's BadBoy Label's in-house "ghost producer" Navi Skill at his Ground Zero studios in Montclair, N.J.

In addition to working under a producer of BadBoy Records this summer, Carter took a trip to Black Entertainment Television's (BET) 106 & Park with junior broadcast major, Sheldon "Jae" Murphy.

"Chase came down from Jersey with us [to 106 & Park] and we balled out," Murphy said. "I was just excited to be there, and I just wanted to see the place where I might potentially work in the future if God allows."

They were featured on set, given a tour and introduced to many vital names in the broadcast industry. Murphy speaks wonders of Carter's talent.

"I've heard a few of his beats, and he has serious potential," Murphy said. "I am seriously waiting for his big break."

Carter ended the summer with many finished works and projects. He will be featured on "C.R.E.A.M. The Movie" soundtrack to be released in mid-September, Rav-P, the cofounder of Supply and Demand, LLC's "The Journey 2.0" and "The Journey 3.0," and Dre Skuffs' "New Jersey Jones" Mixtape; but, his grind did not end as the summer drew to a close.

Starting his sophomore year at Howard, Carter took full advantage of the power of networking and joined WHBC as a production team member and collaborated with many aspiring artists on campus including artist Tenn Stacks on his new track entitled, "Howard Walk-the New Howard Anthem."

Influenced as a child by artists and producers such as Dr. Dre, Quincy Jones, Kanye West, Timbaland, The Runners, DJ Green Lantern, Eminem, Polow The Don and DJ Grandmaster Flash, Carter aspires to be "one of the leading suppliers of fresh mainstream beats for commercial and

film projects including hip-hop, R&B, pop, club and alternative genres" in the next five years.

"I plan to invest and form partnerships with both up-and-coming and established, profitable companies," Carter said. "Studios will be erected and managed in the major hip-hop and R&B capitals of Atlanta, California and New York."

Carter plans to continue to elevate Bang Musik and continue to produce music while working towards his bachelor's degree at Howard University.

Clayton Siskind - Photo Editor
Carter has a production company called Bang Musik Prod.

HU Hospital Seeks University Support, Efforts

BY RON HARRIS
HU Office of Communications

Howard University Hospital needs your blood. African-American blood, if it is to successfully treat patients with sickle cell disease, Howard University Hospital genetic counselor, Barbara Harrison said.

The vast majority of Americans with sickle cell disease are African-American, she said; but unfortunately, African-Americans lag behind in the percent of

blood donors.

"We need to start pulling our weight, when it comes to this disease," she said. "These are mostly African-Americans who are affected, so African-Americans should be at the forefront of efforts to help our brothers and sisters."

Consequently, Harrison said, it is terribly important that the Howard University community pitch in today at the hospital's Sickle Cell Blood Drive. University members can give blood from

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of the hospital at 2041 Georgia Ave.

September is Sickle Cell Month, and the blood drive is the first event in a month-long effort to increase awareness and to get African-Americans more involved in the donor process.

Students, faculty and staff can also help by becoming bone marrow donors, Harrison said. Bone marrow transplants have been successful in eradicating the disease in patients at Howard University Hospital and across

the nation, she said. The process is simple and painless, just a gentle swab of the person's inner cheek.

The hospital is also asking students, faculty and staff to participate in its annual Stomp Out Sickle Cell Walk on Sept. 19. Beginning at 8 a.m., participants will walk from the entrance of Howard University Hospital, around the university and return to the entrance.

For more information call 202.806.6329 or go to <http://www.soswalk.org>





The "Any Other Options?" campaign was formed for students to learn what they can do to influence legislature.

Zelena Williams - Photo Editor

Students Want Other Options

continued from FRONT, HEALTH

needing to take six prescriptions with only enough money for three, she said. Her mother passed away three months ago from cancer.

A recent study shows that based on the effects of the recession alone and not job loss, it is projected that nearly 7 million Americans will lose their health insurance coverage between 2008 and 2010, according to the National Coalition on Health Care.

Duzak said she believes people need to keep putting the pressure on the government. She said that across all college campuses, students need to organize, stand up and fight.

"I think right now the mindset is that health care is a privilege," said Jerome Joseph, Howard University Student Association vice president. "There are a few things in life that should not be a commodity."

Several students, from student government leaders to Health Professional Society students, gathered Tuesday evening on the third floor in Founder's Library to discuss and assess if there are "Any Other Options?" for the health care reform.

"What everyone needs to understand is there is no health care bill. So our rally is not in support of a bill, but of health care," said Marcus Ware, first-year Howard University School of Law student.

The "Any Other Options?" campaign under the Coalition for the Clean Bill of Health started from a conversation about what students can do to influence the legislative process. Ware said that on television, older people are usually shown actively engaged in the process, but it is our generation that will be affected.

Drew Costley, Howard alumnus and chairman of the campaign, said that during his time at Howard, he developed a heart condition as a result of bad habits and the stress from running the campus newspaper. Costley could not get access to quality health care at the time he developed this condition despite the fact he is a cancer survivor.

He said the stress from trying to get access to care was making the condition worse. "I'm a pretty smart guy. I am pretty articulate. I

think I might have some use in the future. I don't want to die."

Costley said he never realized how scary life could be without insurance. He said he believes that their has been a glorification of bad habits that has made it necessary to get health insurance.

"Nobody was going to help me in my time of need... I think everyone has a story with health care or can look around their own communities and find someone that needs health care," he said. "I have become a victim of this in the past year, both the lack of health care and poor health care. I have insurance now, but I think it's something that is necessary for people."

To launch the campaign, posters were hung around campus last night bearing a question mark.

Jasmine Hill, a junior biology major, said that she would like to see the promises Obama made come to fruition because everyone is entitled to be healthy.

"Any Other Options?" plans to host a volunteer interest meeting on Sept. 8 and preparing a list of 10 points of action as determined by the Howard student.

According to Costley, there aren't any solutions to the problem. It's a problem of where our priorities are, he said. Ware initiated the list to try to give options with long-term effects.

Postal Service Buyouts Being Offered in Certain Positions

continued from FRONT, POSTAL

Service's position from a business standpoint," said sophomore administration of justice major, Gary Nelson Jr. "If I was a Postal Service employee I'd have to consider whether there was a possibility of me getting fired or laid off in the near future."

The buyout is currently elective - with 30,000 workers choosing to accept the early retirement.

Post Office retail clerks, distribution center mail handlers and clerks, and motor vehicle technicians are all eligible for the buyout as those positions are the most overloaded.

According to the agency, the number of addresses grows on average by 1.5 million each year; because of this annual increase, mail carriers cannot participate in the buyout.

"That's not an area where

we need reduction," said Postal Service spokeswoman, Yvonne Yenger.

As of now, Sept. 25 is the final day employees can accept the terms, and eligible workers will receive \$10,000 this October and \$5,000 in 2010.

American Postal Workers Union president, William Burris, helped settle a negotiation agreement, but hoped for a higher amount.

"We have to have a balance between work hours and volume," he said. "We had more people than we have mail, and there had to be an adjustment."

Armon Tate, a senior marketing major, does not agree with USPS's money-saving tactic and would only accept the buyout if he was a new employee.

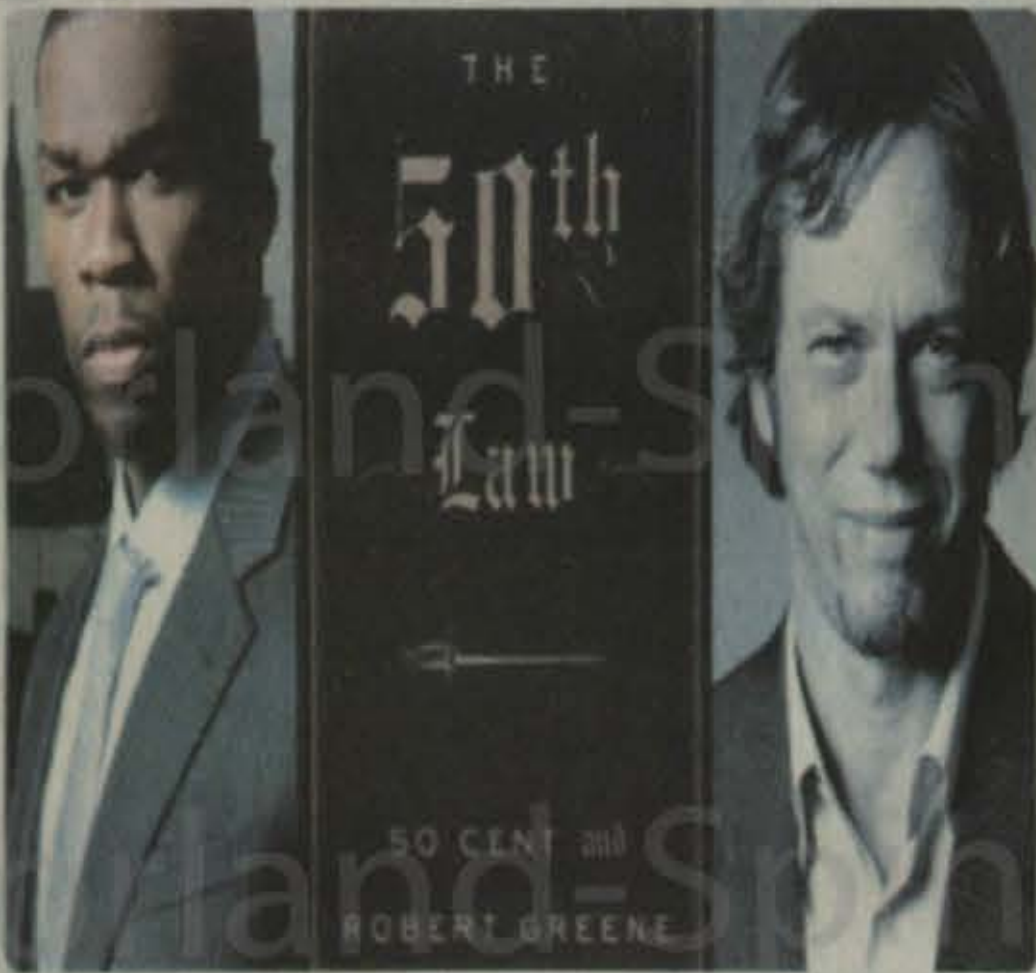
"That isn't even a year's salary to many of those employees," he said. "If you are offering a buy-

out, offer some unemployment until I can find another job too."

Gary Nelson weighs the pros and cons of the Postal Service buyout.

"If they are going to fire people anyway, I'd take it," he said. "That tiny, insufficient amount is certainly better than nothing at all."

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Bree Gant - Staff Photographer

Hilltop staff writer, Riley Wilson, interviews Michael Steele after the town hall meeting in Blackburn. Catch the interview in Thursday's Hilltop.

Students Passionate About Health Care

continued from FRONT, STEELE

was also disappointed with the town hall meeting.

"I still haven't figured out the purpose of this town hall meeting. Whoever did Mr. Steele's talking points failed him. He did not know his audience at all. This is Howard University, the most affluent educated black population in the country," Jackson said.

"He had the nerve to come here with a theme of defying the odds. These students defied the odds before they even came to Howard... Was this the same speech he gave to Harvard students? He obviously does not see Howard students as future leaders of America because he did not talk to them as if they were on the level of leadership and I was offended by that."

Opposing Jackson's thoughts, American University student Paul Venciviengi felt Steele presented his ideas well.

"I don't think he was

supposed to talk about issues," Venciviengi said. "He was talking about getting young people, especially at this level, involved in politics, and end this debate we're having on the issues and not necessarily the issues himself, he can do that by going in front of Congress. I thought he did a pretty good job."

Four months went toward planning the town hall, and even though Brandon Cooper, the president of the HU College Republicans, said the question and answer segment of the event was shortened, he still believes overall the town hall went well.

"I enjoyed the chance to talk to Chairman Steele," Cooper said. "...the Howard student body reacted in a similar way I expected them to. They weren't appreciative of the person from outside the campus coming to disrupt the venue, so I think it was very good for everyone at Howard to come on the same level at one point."

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Cheney Responds to Obama CIA Investigation

President Obama has ordered an investigation on the interrogation tactics of the United States



The former vice president came under fire from both sides of the aisle as he referred to Obama's demand for an investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency a "terrible idea."

BY MARQUIS H. BARNETT
Nation & World Editor

Late last week, United States Attorney General Eric Holder's office announced plans to launch an investigation into the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) FBI interrogation tactics.

Late Sunday, former Vice President Richard "Dick" Cheney, said in an interview with Fox News Network's "Fox Sunday News" that he thinks it is a "terrible decision,"

and that "It's clearly a political move. There's no other rationale for why they're doing this."

In an announcement released by the Attorney General's office, General Holder said that the Justice Department would not prosecute CIA officials who followed legal guidance from the administration "in good faith."

The investigation is set to be housed within the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and will study, in detail, the tactics that

United States officials use when interrogating those suspected of participating in crime.

More than anything else, the investigation will look specifically at the tactics used when interrogating those persons in custody that are linked to terrorist operations abroad and right here on U.S. soil.

"I think it's a direct slap at the CIA," Cheney said of the plan for interrogation.

"I don't think it will work. I think that if they were faced with

the kind of situation we were faced with in the aftermath of 9/11, suddenly capturing people that may have knowledge about imminent attacks, and they're going to have to have meetings and decide who gets to ask what question and who's going to Mirandize the witness—I just—I think it's—it's silly."

Cheney went on, "It makes no sense. It's not—it doesn't appear to be a serious move in terms of being able to deal with the nation's security."

On Monday, an official from the Obama administration came forward to speak up on behalf of the administration. The official, who asked to remain unidentified, said "the attorney general made a determination independently, based on the facts and the law."

The official also noted that the 2004 report that was referenced in Cheney's allegations concluded "the effectiveness of the enhanced interrogation techniques are hard to measure."

Also last week, a 2004 report revealed interrogation tactics that included U.S. interrogators threatening an al Qaeda detainee with a power drill. There was also proof of a U.S. interrogator threatening to kill one of the high profile detainee's children.

The report was released as a result of an American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) lawsuit and outlined the use of a number of tactics not approved by U.S. officials including, "lowing cigar smoke, employing certain stress positions, the

use of a stiff brush on a detainee, and stepping on a detainee's ankle shackles."

There is now a heated debate from members on both sides of the aisle as to the accuracy of any information obtained as a result of these unauthorized interrogation tactics.

Junior political science major Victoria Miranda said that "All interrogation tactics should be just and approved by the government... after all, they are a critical part of the United States JUSTICE system."

Cheney, who has gone on record as being a supporter of the waterboarding interrogation technique, said that the techniques were "absolutely essential in saving thousands of American lives, in preventing further attacks against the United States, in giving us the intelligence we needed to go find al Qaeda, to find their camps, to find out how they were being financed."

**THE TERM
"WATERBOARDING"
REFERS TO THE
INTERROGATION
TACTIC WHERE
WATER IS POURED
OVER SOMEONE'S
FACE AS THEY ARE
ASKED QUESTIONS.**

Brush Fires Put California in State of Emergency

Governor Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Evacuates thousands as
A safety precaution

BY Le'DIA J. SMITH
Staff Writer

By the order of the governor's office, thousands of California citizens have been forced to evacuate their homes as a deadly fire that has claimed nearly 122,000 acres of land has destroyed Southern California.

Since its start last Wednesday afternoon, the Station Fire burning through the Angeles National Forest north of Los Angeles has claimed two lives, destroyed 53 structures, and has threatened more than 10,000 homes.

Triple-digit temperatures mixed with low humidity fueled the flames earlier this week, causing the Southern California wildfire to spread from 45,000 acres to more than 100,000 acres in a matter of hours on Monday, fire officials said.

By Tuesday morning, the Station Fire had consumed 121,762 acres—an increase of 16,000 acres since Monday, said Mike Dietrich, the U.S. Forest Service's incident commander. Only five percent of the fire has been contained, yet Dietrich believes the containment figure should rise substantially after overnight progress was mapped.

Fire crews set backfires and



The United States sees most brush fires happening in the hills of California. Each year, these brush fires cause millions of dollars in damages and claim hundreds of lives.

sprayed fire retardant at Mount Wilson, home to TV and radio towers and the famed Wilson Observatory. Using a bulldozer, firefighters laid down an 8-mile "dozer line" in an effort to contain the fire and stop it from spreading to homes near Acton.

If flames hit the mountain, some cell phone service, TV and radio transmissions would be disrupted.

Governor Arnold

Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in many counties since the start of the major fire that has erupted in California. On Monday, he signed Executive Order S-16-09, which waives fees and help recovery efforts for the victims of wildfires in Los Angeles and surrounding counties.

"We are doing everything we can to save life and save property," he said during a press conference at the fire command center at Yucaipa

Regional Park on Monday.

Paige Mitchell-Spears, junior mechanical engineering major from Fullerton, California, continues to worry for the safety of her family as she continues her studies at Howard University.

"The fires always worry me. It is extremely scary when the fires are so close to my home that we can see the flames from my [porch]," she said. "Thankfully it hasn't affected me and my family more than

worrying, and I pray it stays that way."

As the fire continues to spread into the wilderness, new wind patterns are being created and making the fire unpredictable, officials said. Fire officials have released mandatory evacuation notices for homes under threat.

Schwarzenegger has pleaded for the legislature to pass the Emergency Response Initiative, which he said would make \$100 million available to fight fires throughout California.

"We have the money to fight these fires, but if we pass this we will have \$100 million more," he said.

Three additional fires have hit California in the past week.

The Cottonwood fire hit San Bernardino National Forest on Thursday afternoon, burning 2,200 acres, fire officials said.

The Palos Verdes fire began Friday and destroyed 230 acres and forced 1,200 people out of their homes 20 miles southwest of downtown Los Angeles.

Another fire in the Angeles National Forest, called the Morris fire, started Tuesday that burned more than 2,100 acres of the forest. That fire was about 85 percent contained Friday evening, officials said.

It could take another week for firefighters to control the blaze fully, authorities have said.

The containment date stands at September 15.

Former Miss California USA Sues Pageant Officials

BY MARQUIS H. BARNETT
Nation & World Editor

Former Miss California USA Carrie Prejean announced Monday that she has filed a lawsuit with the Superior Court of California against Miss California USA Pageant officials.

Prejean, who was stripped of her title in June, has accused three pageant officials of libel and religious discrimination. Those named in the suit are pageant coordinators Keith Lewis and Shanna Moakler, and pageant publicist Roger Neal.

The suit alleges that the former beauty queen suffered because of "libel, public disclosure of private facts, religious discrimination, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and negligent infliction of emotional distress."

Prejean's attorney, Charles LiMandri, said in a news release on Monday, "We will make the case

that her title was taken from her solely because of her support of traditional marriage."

LiMandri refers to the controversy that arose with Prejean as she declared her opposition of same-sex marriages in a question/answer session during the Miss USA Pageant.

Shortly thereafter, Lewis went on record as saying that he was "personally saddened and hurt that Miss California believes marriage rights belong only to a man and a woman."

When Miss USA Pageant owner Donald Trump was brought abreast of the situation in May, he held a press conference announcing that Prejean would not be stripped of her title.

Then, in June, the word got out that pageant officials, with Trump's "blessing," would relieve

Prejean of her duties as Miss California USA prematurely; citing "missed appearances" amongst a host of other factors in their decision.

According to her former agent Francine Champagne, Prejean was released from her contract in 2008 because she was "problematic" and "not an easy person to get along with."

In an interview with CNN's Larry King, Lewis said that Prejean had told the pageant that she was not interested in their input and that she was going to make her own decision on what to do. Lewis held that being in a contract, Prejean was required to do certain things that she did not follow through with.

Going into court, Prejean's legal team plans to bring evidence that the former Miss USA was relinquished of her duties solely because

she voiced a negative opinion about same-sex marriages.

The pageant's attorneys have yet to release a statement regarding the lawsuit. Moakler, who has since left the pageant, has yet to issue a statement on her behalf.

Mr. Howard University Melech Thomas said that everyone is entitled to their own opinion and, while he does not necessarily agree with her statements, they are that of her own and she should not be condemned for her personal beliefs on such a public matter. A date for trial has yet to be announced.



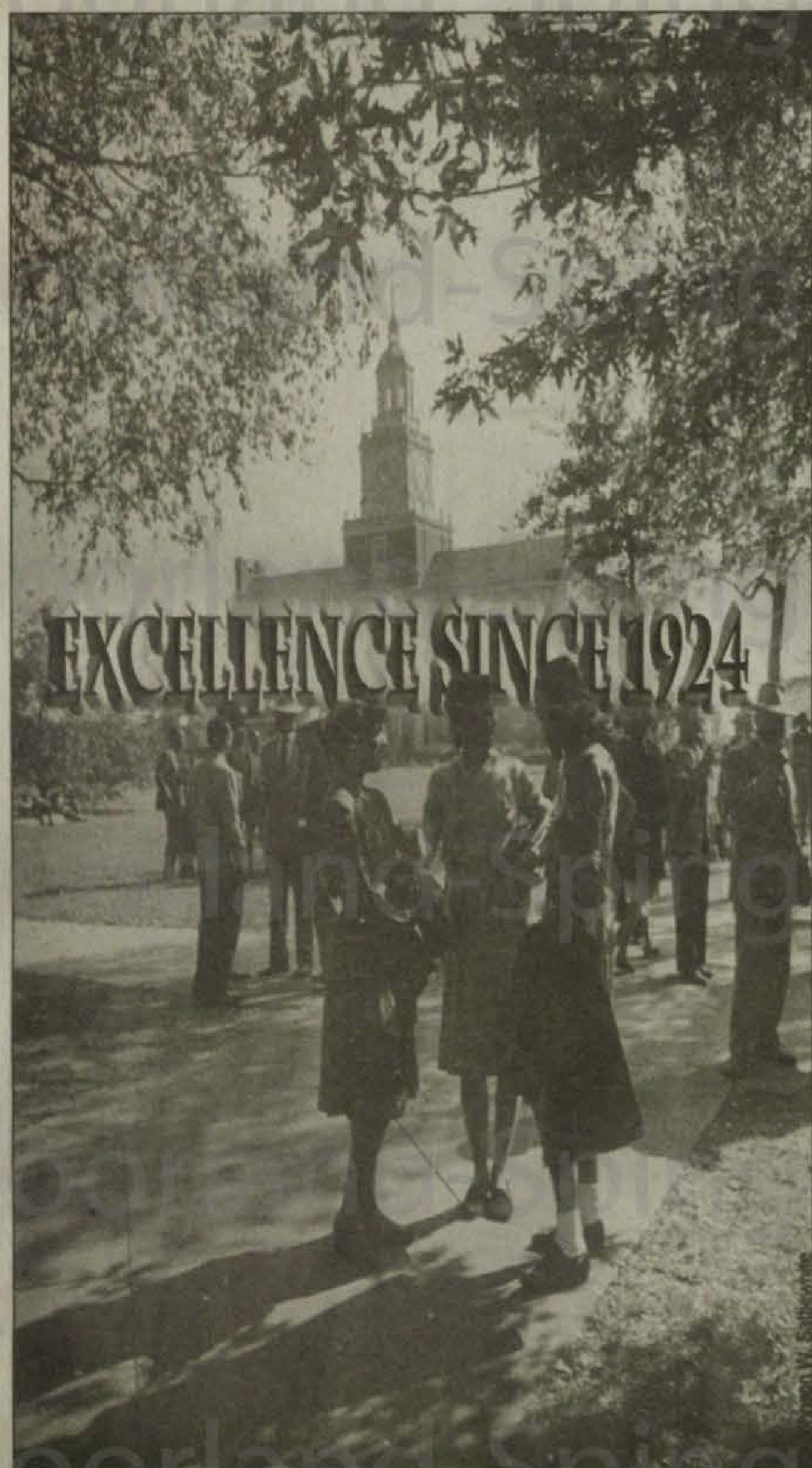
Prejean's lawsuit cites "emotional distress" as one of the main circumstances for filing.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT PARKING REGISTRATION AVAILABLE
SEPTEMBER 2-4, 2009.

The Parking Office has opened a new site for Student employee registration. Effective September 2, 2009 you may go on line to register for parking.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. You must be a currently enrolled student with no outstanding citations.
2. Using the internet, log into <http://eb.howard.edu/eb>
3. Username: Your student ID number.
4. Password: Your student ID number.
5. You will be prompted to change your password. After this please carefully follow the prompts.
6. The final page will give you a confirmation of your registration. Do not click more than once while you wait for the confirmation. You will not be able to go back into the system once you have completed registration.
Please be patient.
7. Be aware that the registration site is only open as long as parking spaces are available. Once all the spaces are exhausted we will close the registration.



tweet tweet

@hilltopcampus





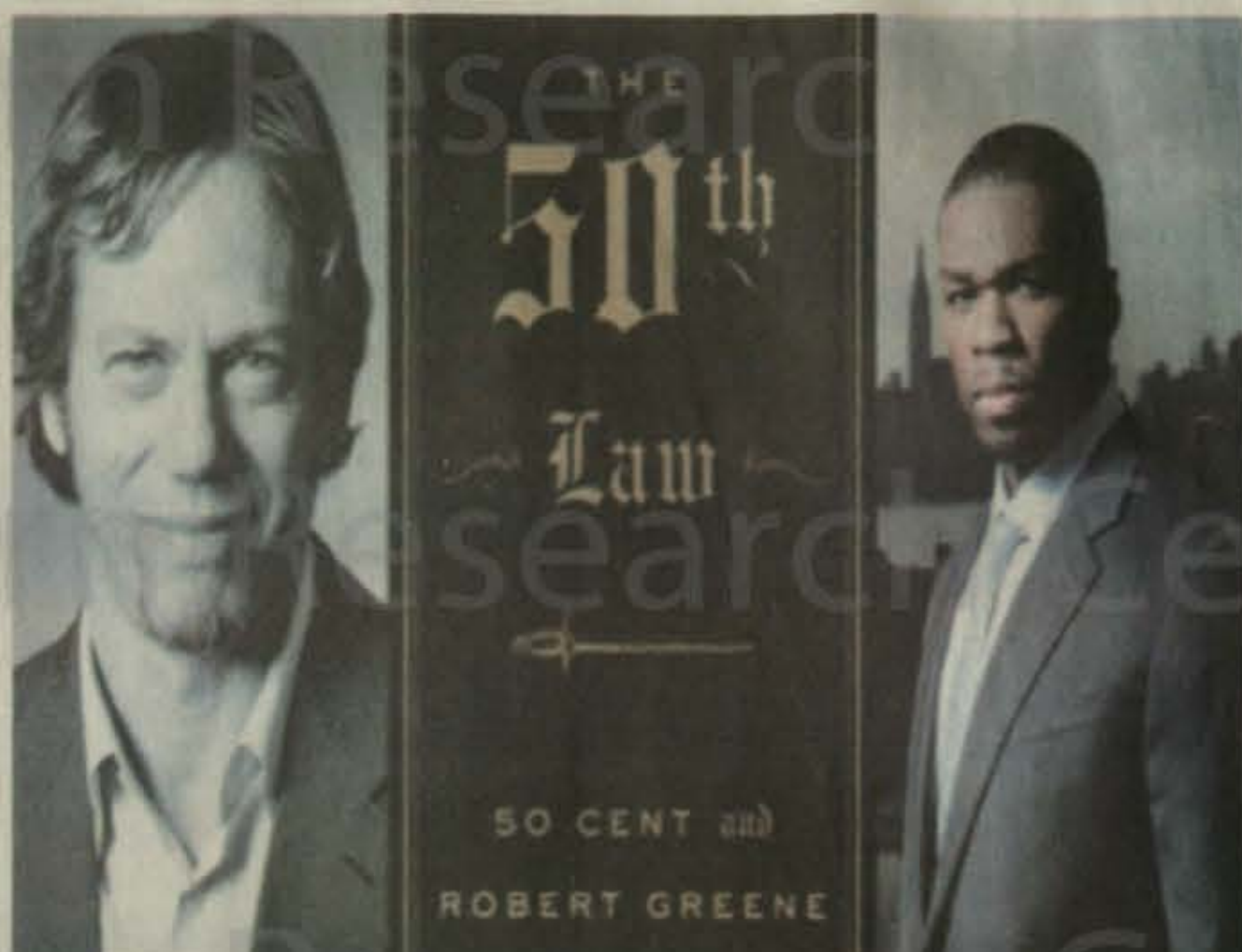
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS
GET IN WHERE YOU FIT IN
on DECK - BOWLING
ON ORGANIZATIONAL FEE

TICKETS GO ON SALE AUGUST 15, 2009
AT OR AMON CLACKENBUSH BOX OFFICE

TABLE TICKET PRICE - \$50.00

BLACKBURN CENTER BALLROOM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009
12:00 NOON TO 6:00 P.M.

ONCE THE ORGANIZATION HAS PURCHASED THEIR TICKET,
PLEASE TURN IN REGISTRATION FORMS AND TICKET STUBS
TO THE OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES,
BLACKBURN CENTER, SUITE 10,
CAMPUS CENTER. ALL ORGANIZATIONS MUST BE REGISTERED AND
RECOGNIZED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES
TO PARTICIPATE. IF YOU ARE NOT A RECOGNIZED OR
REGISTERED ORGANIZATION AND
YOU PURCHASE A TICKET,
TICKETS WILL NOT BE VALID.



A Conversation with the Authors Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson and Robert Greene

HOWARD UNIVERSITY CRAMTON AUDITORIUM

SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

7:00 P.M.



HOWARD
UNIVERSITY

TICKET PRICES

\$10.00

ALL SEATS
STUDENT AUDIENCE ONLY

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In Washington, D.C., people are hungry for change —
over half a million of them are simply hungry.

On **September 16**,
Give a Day's Lunch Money
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Donate online at
CapitalAreaFoodBank.org
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DONATIONS ACCEPTED NOW THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30

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\$25 PROVIDES 75 MEALS

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The Cheesecake Factory

The Capital Area Food Bank feeds hope through access to nutritious food, nourishes change through education, skill building and advocacy, and creates sustainability with outreach and training. Last year, the CAFB distributed 23 million pounds of food, including 6 million pounds of fresh produce, to over 700 partner agencies including Bread for the City, Shabach Ministries and ALIVE. The CAFB also has a distribution center in Northern Virginia.

And I Wonder...

- ...How Chris Brown doesn't remember BEATING Rihanna?
- ...if Michael Steele brought fried chicken and potato salad to HU
- ...if Twitter will make Facebook obsolete.
- ...if Homecoming will pop this year.
- ...Why the janitors were on strike.
- ...In Mr. Biggs "Contagious" song why the girl wanted R. Kelly to touch her and give her what he had?...clearly he had the "package!"
- ...Why you are going through the "Trapped in the Closet" series to see if R. Kelly really did have the "package."
- ...When the word "clearly" became a Howardism, when did everything become so clear?
- ...How many people are addicted to "True Blood" and "ATL Housewives?"

- compiled by The Hilltop Staff

Caught In Style

Shorts

"Howard definitely gave me the courage to experiment..."



Who: Colleen Wedderburn, senior, Long Island N.Y., Political Science

Caught: In Calculus Class

What are you wearing?

White button up shirt, H&M
Black paper bag shorts, H&M
Black wooden necklace, a hair supply store on Georgia Ave.
White G Shock, Amazon.com
Black and white oxford saddle shoes, Payless

What do you love about summer style?

I love summer style because it gives you the chance to experiment with clothes for the rest of the school year. When I go shopping for the summer, I try to buy basic items that can also be worn during the fall.

Who influences your style?

Right now, I have been heavily influenced by Dwayne Wayne's Black Nationalism style on "A Different World," Denise Huxtable's free spirit and Janelle Monae's 1990's New Wave Rock fashion. One day, you may see me on The Yard with my dashiki and flip-up glasses; the next you'll see me in harem pants and another day with a cardigan and my oxford shoes.

Describe Howard fashion in one word.
Experimental. Howard definitely gave me the courage to experiment and think outside of my comfort zone fashion wise.

What fashion advice would you give to the incoming 2013 class?

The advice that I would give to the class of 2013 is to push the limits of fashion. Take this opportunity to reinvent your style and find your own fashion sense. Don't buy things just because it is the popular style; set your own trends!

"Don't focus on the labels on your clothing."



Who: DJ Spencer, sophomore, Houston, Mathematics/Secondary Education

Caught: In the Punchout

What are you wearing?

Self-cut Fashion Geek shirt purchased somewhere in Chicago
Self-cut skinny jeans, Urban Outfitters
Low top Black Chuck's, Footlocker
Black Frames, Urban Outfitters

Who influences your style?

My style is really influenced by my peers, especially my roommate. I have them to thank for really introducing me to the idea of stepping outside of my comfort zone and truly experience summer fashions, such as cut up shirts and shorts to match.

Which trends do you want to go away?

I really wish that cowboy boots and shorts would go away. I'm from Texas and I feel that, quite frankly, it is an insult. It isn't a fashion statement. But rather a fashion catastrophe. Boots are meant to keep the feet protected and warm, and unless you are a citizen of Alaska, I don't see the need for boots of any kind in the middle of the summer.

What do you love about summer style?

The thing I love about summer style is the fact that you can take the mainstream "in" things and tweak them a bit to match your personality.

Describe Howard fashion in one word.
Overrated.

What fashion advice would you give to the incoming 2013 class?

Don't focus on the labels on your clothing. Focus on the main theme or point you are trying to accomplish with your outfit, and the worth of your outfit will speak for itself.

"I can be near naked; it's the way we're meant to be..."



Who: Lily Billy, sophomore, Baltimore, Physics/Math

Caught: On The Yard

What are you wearing?

Gray sleeveless open back button up, Bebe
Self-torn jeans shorts, Gap
Pink sandals, Bakers
Black lace headband, Aldo
Gold butterfly ring from great grandma

What do you love about summer style?

I can be near naked; it's the way we're meant to be...

Describe Howard Fashion in one word.
Conspicuous

What fashion advice would you give to the incoming 2013 class?
Express YOU!

- Photos and interviews compiled by Aaron Randle, Staff Writer

Don't forget
to turn in
your
Hilltop
applications
by Friday!

Usain Bolt Strikes a Nerve With Boasting

BY ROYCE STRAHAN
Sports Editor

Unsportsmanlike conduct occurs frequently in sports, which is frowned on by executives and some fans. Even though some view celebrating excessively after an accomplishment as being unsportsmanlike, more media attention is often given to those who are boastful when celebrating.

Mass attention has recently been given to Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt's accomplishments after he broke his own records in the 100m and 200m at the 2009 World Championships in Berlin.

Bolt is known for his signature pose that he does after he wins a race in which he stretches his arms out to imitate a lightning bolt, which has become his nickname since his recent successes.

While some are impressed by Bolt's accomplishments, others are strongly against his antics which have given him national acclaim. Sports analyst, Bob Costas, referred to Bolt's actions as disrespectful to his competitors, the Olympic Games and the fans who deserve to see Bolt at his best.

"It was a display that should not have been there," said track and field commentator Ato Bolden on NBC after witnessing Bolt finish the 100-meter dash by celebrating, screaming and slapping his chest before crossing the finish line. "You kids at home, this is not how you behave as an Olympic champion."

Assistant Sports Director of Howard Athletics, Chevonne Mansfield, believes that the media plays a major part in making athletes popular in the sports world and Bolt's actions weren't as bad as some make them seem.

"I think you have to find a way to stand out in sports and some have to do that by showing enthu-

siasm," Mansfield said. "I think it boosts popularity because it [Bolt's celebrations] gets more media attention."

Senior audio production major, Alexandria Hines, believes the media unnecessarily gives Bolt the negative attention.

"It's a lot of other things going on in the world that the media could focus on versus Usain pointing in a picture after a race," Hines said. "I don't think there's anything wrong with that. He pretty much just expressed himself because he's at a point of accomplishment. I feel like his actions could have been a lot worse."

While being boastful is looked down upon by some, others believe that athletes adding personality to their style of play only advances their careers.

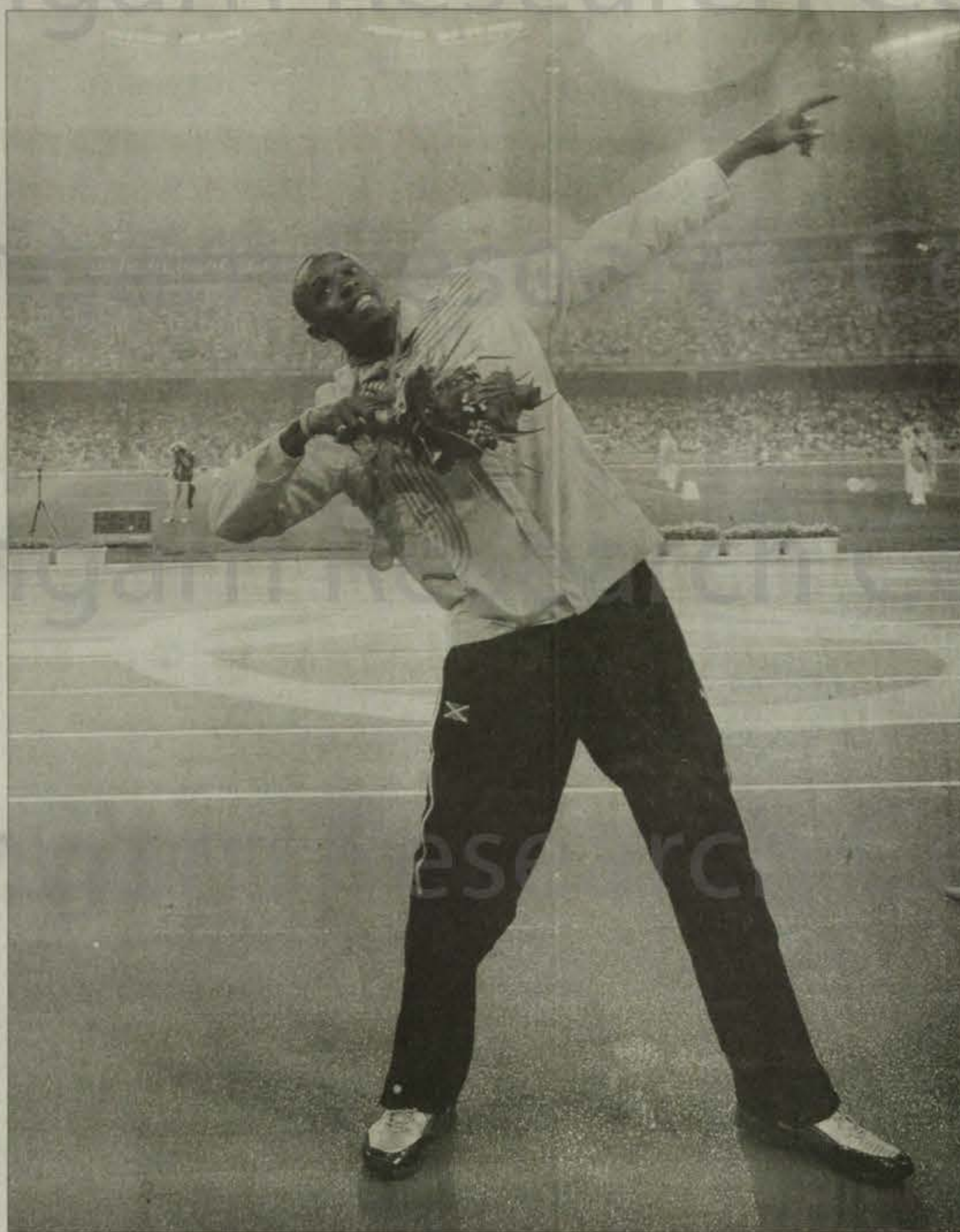
"I definitely think it boosts their popularity because they're known for a specific type of attitude which they are remembered for," said Cortney Williams, junior biology major.

Senior insurance major, Tyesha Tucker, believes the opposite.

"I think the way they perform and even how they look will boost their popularity, not the actions they show when celebrating," she said. "As long as they have a good personality, I feel they will always have supporters and fans."

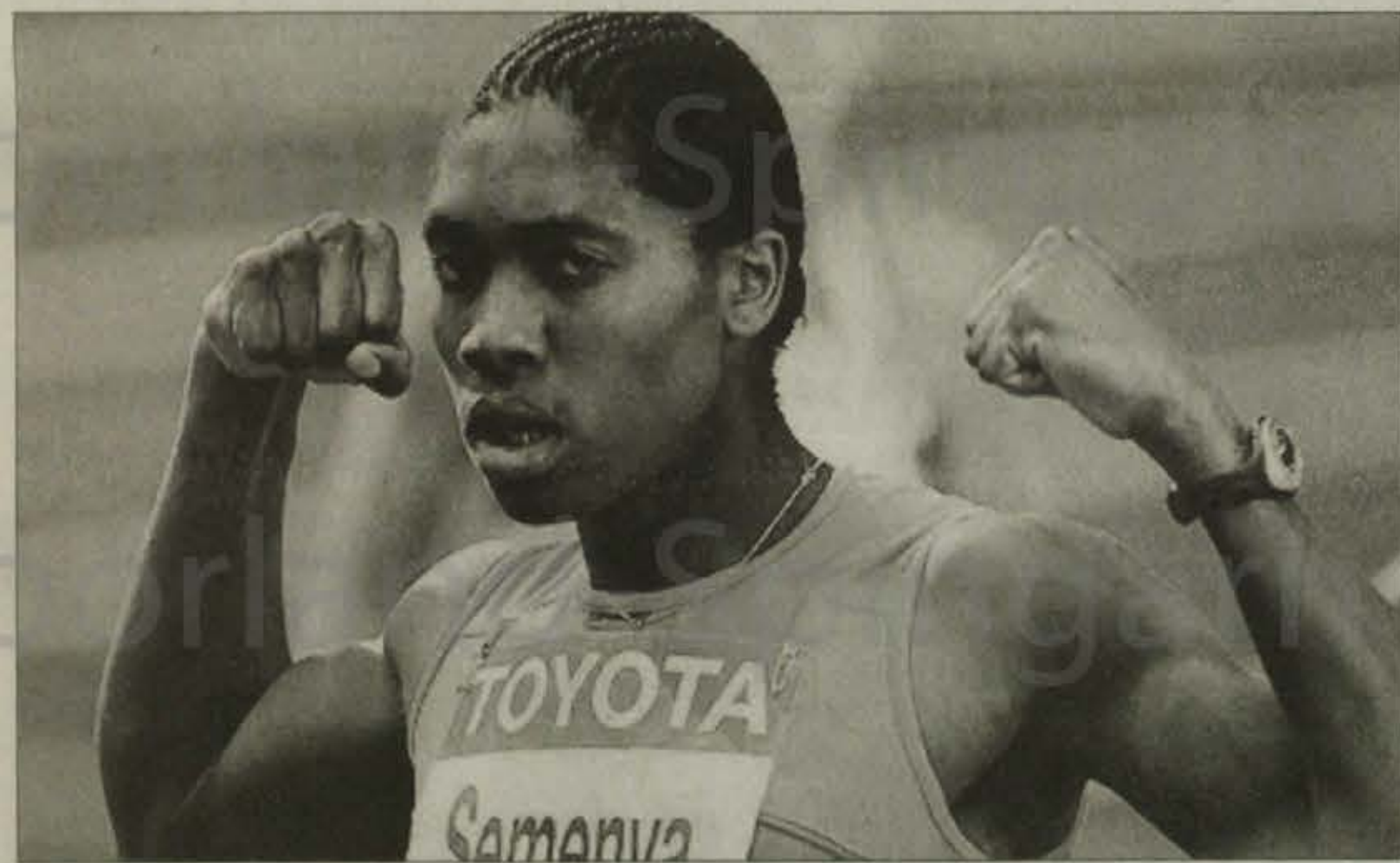
The media can often play a role in athletes', such as Bolt, popularity when they give them extra attention.

"The media plays a huge role in athletes' popularity and might even contribute to them being arrogant by giving them so much attention," Williams said. "Athletes who act in a way which might be looked down upon get a lot more attention than other important things that are going on."



Usain Bolt, often referred to as "Lightening Bolt," is shown above in his signature pose after winning races. Bolt has been ridiculed by some as being unsportsmanlike in his behavior on the track.

Gender of South African Runner Questioned



South African runner, Caster Semenya's gender has recently been in question which has surrounded her in controversy.

BY TERRICKA JOHNSON
Staff Writer

After winning first place in the World Championship's 800-meter race, one would expect to be showered with praises and congratulations.

This is not the story of Caster Semenya, an 18-year-old South Af-

rican runner who has recently been asked by the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) to undergo a gender verification process.

"I think it's wrong because there are only accusations against her being a woman because she is competing well," said Jamilia Walker, junior legal communication ma-

jor from Denver. "They knew she was a woman before, so why are they questioning that now?"

Information about the IAAF requesting Semenya to undergo gender verification testing was released just before the World Championship race took place on Aug. 19 in Berlin.

According to the BBC and

the Daily Telegraph newspaper, the test that Semenya was ordered to undergo revealed extremely high levels of testosterone which caused the controversy and talks of her potentially being stripped of her medals.

Martell Bivings, junior political science major from Detroit said, "I think that it's very ignorant and very stereotypical of them [the IAAF] to do that just because she is exceeding in what most of her competitors can not do."

With illegal steroids and other performance enhancing drugs being taken by athletes, the hole for suspicion and doubt leaves some wondering whether Semenya's case is one of the natural or the induced kind.

"I feel like the tests would be rightful if they were looking to see if she was taking steroids or to see if she was taking testosterone pills and things of that nature," said Teron Stocks, junior human development major. "But just to see if she's a man? What does her birth certificate say? She should not be tested."

In the past year, Semenya has been able to reduce the time of her 800-meter run by 8 seconds, an achievement that raised many suspicions about the young competi-

tor.

"If I was in her situation, I would take the test. I would be faced with the choices so I would want to stand and say 'This is who I am', Stocks said. "But at the same time I would have an obligation to the people who look up to me as a runner to defend myself."

In the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, eight female competitors failed the gender verification test, but they were eventually cleared. Seven were found to have the condition of being intersex.

"If it's because she is winning and beating all of the odds, I don't think that is a good reason. It's a testimony showing that women do not have equal rights throughout the world for them to do this," Bivings said.

In 1992, the IAAF suspended the use of the gender verification process for sex ambiguities, but has since recanted this stance in the case of Semenya.

"I would not take the test if it were me. I've been a man all my life and in her case, she has been a woman all her's," Bivings said.

The IAAF has not released the results of the test and claim that the procedures for testing are very complex, which will take several weeks to produce results.

Sports Trivia!
Who is one of the first African-American PGA golfers and the first to attend the PGA business school?

Answer:
Harold Dunovant

**TODAY IN
SPORTS HISTORY**

September 2, 1965

WBC boxing champ, Lennox Lewis born.

Want to write for sports?

E-mail hilltopsports@gmail.com for more information.



Electronic Communication Can Ruin Conversations

In an age where text messages, instant messages, Facebook, Twitter and other forms of electronic communication keep us in contact with others, people seem to be losing touch with one another.

It is quite easy for messages to get lost in translation. Lack of inflections, facial expressions, and body language can make the things that we read hard to interpret.

While this may not be a major issue for older generations, it can seriously harm younger generations. Growing up with instant messaging readily available can cause children not to appreciate one-on-one communication.

Interpersonal communication is an art and requires a great amount of skill. Being able to communicate is essential when one is looking for a job, trying to get an override into a class, trying to ask a stranger for directions, or even trying to get good service in a restaurant.

Body language and common conversational etiquette can make or break a person's chance at receiving something they want. Without knowing how to use these communication tools to one's advantage, it will be quite hard for one to succeed.

Another problem that the overuse of these electronic forms of communication is causing, is a

lack of face-to-face problem solving, promoting passive-aggressiveness.

We've all seen or heard about situations where someone got upset with another person and changed their "Facebook status" in order to talk about it. How about a situation where

someone "tweets" about a person who is irking them, rather than talking to that person; even if they're in the same room, sitting next to each other.

Some people find it offensive, immature, and detrimental to the relationship for someone to electronically vent about them, especially when a face-to-face conversation could have occurred.

This may be the case because what we put on these Web sites becomes public information to the world. Some people don't enjoy being broadcast and some seem to dislike it more when they are not even aware of what they did.

Electronic communication is convenient and serves a purpose, but it is easy to see how it can also be an issue. If people keep their interpersonal skills sharp and know when it is, and when it isn't, appropriate to communicate via electronics, it will be easier for us all to stay on the same page.

Our View:

The children are the ones who are going to be affected the most. They won't have the skills necessary to hold conversations.

lack of face-to-face problem solving, promoting passive-aggressiveness.

We've all seen or heard about situations where someone got upset with another person and changed their "Facebook status" in order to talk about it. How about a situation where

Perspective

The Great Challenge We Face

With a budget cut of more than \$40 million, major reductions in staff and some university services going from bad to worse, there is no doubt our university faces grave challenges ahead. Nevertheless, we must stand strong. We must unite in this time of chaos and uncertainty and find our individual charge to serve. Not through apathy, but through advocacy, empowerment, and service.

There are challenges we ALL must acknowledge. For if we do not, failure is in inevitable. Our administration must do what they know to be right and fulfill their movement of change; otherwise, their words become political rhetoric and jargon.

Our financial aid lines are longer than ever, tension is at an all time high and the atmosphere has become more volatile and dangerous than the poor facilities in the Chemistry building. We must ask ourselves, where is the student first initiative and who is actually abiding by it?

Certainly not the front line in Financial Aid. However, all blame cannot be placed on them,

especially when they are forced to operate with a 40 percent staff reduction and one working fax machine! Maybe we should have fully considered the impact of the voluntary separation.

Our faculty, which is second to none in academic research externally, must first make the necessary changes to our curricula here at Howard in order to restore academic rigor in our classrooms. Our curricula are outdated and there is a clear disparity from class to class on the meaning of academic integrity. Buy a book, get an A? If that's the standard a top 100 university is setting for its students, then I am deeply concerned.

However, I would be hypocritical to challenge the faculty and administration with out doing the same to us the students. We the students must learn to channel our energy through raising questions, demanding answers and not ceasing the charge until they have been answered. It is time to unite with the staff, not fight against them.

We have become complacent and lazy. We are angry with the lines in

financial aid, yet we are still submitting our FAFSAs in August that should have been done in January. This is simply unacceptable. Then students contact the department of student advocacy and expect us to work miracles. We are here to help those who want to help themselves.

We have ordained new leadership in many offices, and with their respective positions comes the power and challenge of this great institution called Howard University. As Bill Cosby articulated at the inauguration of the 16th president, "Howard is like a jewel, the more you apply pressure the prettier it becomes." We must challenge our students, faculty, and administration to realize, "with great power comes great responsibility."

In Truth and Service,

Corey Briscoe,
Director of Student
Advocacy
Howard University
Student Association

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

Want to write for The Hilltop?

Come grab a story at our next budget meeting after the holiday!

Monday at 6 p.m. in the Howard Plaza Towers West P-Level

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Any inquiries for advertisements or Hilltopics should be directed to

The Hilltop Business Office.

THE HILLTOP

2251 Sherman Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20001

(202) 806-4724 (Editorial)

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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.

Share your perspective!
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Hilltopics are printed everyday. The first 20 words are \$10 and .25 for each additional word. There is a 25% additional charge for small images. All classifieds must be submitted and paid for 3 business days in advance.

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Come join Refreshing Spring Church for Sunday Morning Worship at 9:30am Transporation Provided at Tubman Quadrangle and Drew Hall at 9am. Visit our website at www.rscogic.org

Big Brother, Big Sister Mentor Dream Team is searching for top college mentors for the Washington area to help with homework, fitness, music, and tutoring. Call today to schedule interview (301) 585 - 8622.

Howard University Student Association Presents... 2009 General Elections Commission Candidate Interest Meeting for the 2009 Special Elections Thursday, September 3rd, 2009 Blackburn Forum 7pm - 9pm Applications and petitions will be distributed and any questions or concerns will be addressed. Text HUSA49 to 41411 for more information!

Want to be the next Mr. or Miss School of Communications?

SOC Pageant Contestant Interest Meeting

Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Screening Room West (3rd floor of the School of Communications)

Pageant applications available in the Student Council office (C118-D) starting Wednesday, September 2, 2009

Applications are due Friday September 4, 2009 at 5:00pm in the SOC Council office.

Howard U Homecoming Steering Committee 2009 RHYTHM REMINDER Volunteer Packets are Due Friday Sept. 4, 2009 5p.m. Blackburn Rm: 117

18th Annual FREE Fitness Kickboxing & Yoga Week "Class & workshop" Monday, September 7 through Friday, September 11, First 25 to RSVP and attend receive FREE "boxing hand wraps." Call now!!! (202) 387-8622. Shuttle Transportation provided.

THE LADIES OF ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY INC. ALPHA CHAPTER WILL BE HOSTING A GAME NITE IN COOK HALL LOUNGE ON THURS 9/3/09 COME FOR FUN AND GAMES. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED!

School of Communications Mentorship Program Interest Meeting Thursday, September 3, 2009 7:00 p.m. Rm. G10 (School of Communications basement)

Models Needed for Local fitness gym advertisements. \$25 per hour. (202) 498 - 7991



HUSA PRESENTS "FIRST FRIDAY: THE FAMILY REUNION" Friday, September 4, 2009

12pm - 3pm on top of UGL

FREE Food, FUN & Music!!

Text HUSA49 to 41411 for more information

Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity Inc. Alpha Tau Chapter Presents "Tales from the hood: I know what you did last summer" Meet Night One Thursday September 3, 2009 @ 7:16 p.m. in the Blackburn Digital Auditorium

Sitters Wanted \$12 or more per hour. Register free for jobs near campus or home. www.student-sitters.com

Interested in the School of Business pageant? Wednesday, Sept. 2nd Contestant interest meeting - 6pm Volunteer interest meeting - 7pm School of Business Student Lounge

Would you like to be crowned the NEW Mr. & Miss CPNAHS?

CPNAHS Pageant Contestant/Volunteer Meeting Thursday, September 3, 2009 @ 8:10pm Annex 1, Rm 124 *Refreshments served

Pageant Applications will be available in the Student Council office (Rm. 111) starting Wednesday, September 2, 2009

All applications MUST be returned to the CPNAHS Student Council office no later than Monday, September 7, 2009 COB.