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WEATHER

67
58
Tomorrow:

73
61

 Established
1924

THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

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Thursday, September 10, 2009

Thursday's Notebook
BREAKING NEWS

READ TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOWARD'S CULTURE OF PEACE, THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BUDDHIST CLUB.

MECCANISMS

READ WHAT FORMER HU STUDENTS LANCE GROSS, DIDDY AND AMAROSA SAID ABOUT LAST WEEK'S PROTEST ON TWITTER.

LIFE & STYLE

WANNA BE ON TOP? AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL'S NEWST CONTESTANT STRUTS ON HOWARD'S CAMPUS.

PAGE 8

PAGE 9

50 Cent Pays Visit, Lays 'Law'

 BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON
 Campus Editor

Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson exposed a fearless side to the students filling up the seats in Cramton Auditorium to hear more about his new book, with author Robert Green, "The 50th Law."

"When I do things away from music I use the name Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson," he said. "Everyone isn't going to leave from this and retain information, some people are going to be like 'yeah it was cool, but he ain't rap though.'"

Three years ago, Jackson approached Green about collaborating for this book. Green is the author of "The 48 Laws of Power," "The Art of Seduction," and "The 33 Strategies of War." According to Green, Jackson found his book "The 48 Laws of Power" helpful when dealing with sharks in the music industry.

"He is a living breathing practitioner of 'The 48 Laws of Power,'" Green said.

After writing three books using anecdotal historical figures, Jackson is the first living person Green has focused on in a book. "The 50th Law" is all about letting go of fears.

"I wanna get inside their minds, I wanna figure them out, figure out what makes them tick," he said.

Jackson said this book allowed make a direct comparison with some of the things that he



Curtis Jackson aka 50 Cent was at Cramton Auditorium last night to promote his new book "The 50th Law" with author Robert Green. The two worked on the book for three years.

experienced.

The way Jackson coped after he was shot nine times was a big focus. Green said that what Jackson had discovered after he got shot was "The 50th Law," moving beyond fearlessness. "This book is about fears that are more primal, fears of being alone and abandoned, physical and mental pains, taking a risk, being criticized, and the ultimate fear of death," he said. "These fears are prickling America right now."

When Jackson talked about the flaws that he has in his life, he wasn't all about the business. "There's no strong committed re-

lationship in my life right now," he said.

After talking about experiences that made him fearless, Green and Jackson gave constructive criticism to the four finalists of the Concept 120 competition through the ELI Institute. The finalists had to present their business plans to Green and Jackson in 120 seconds, or two minutes. The four finalists were: Anceztaz Clothing, Affinity Music and Arts, Street BidNaz, and R Cube BINS. Along with receiving feedback from two successful entrepreneurs, the finalists also received monetary prizes. Third place taking \$150,

Anceztaz Clothing, second place taking \$300, Street BidNaz, and first places taking \$500, R Cube BINS.

"The feedback was good, but I thought it was a little conflicted," said freshman radio, television, and film major Lance Coleman, the founder of Affinity Music and Arts. "I wish I had more time, they were vague in the areas I should improve in."

"I learned that the struggles make you a better person and experiences make you wiser," said freshman biology major Donavon Murphy about "The 50th Law" introduction overall.

Office of Minority Health Hosts Panel Discussion at HU

 BY JESSICA HARPER
 Contributing Writer

As infant mortality rates in the United States exceed 20,000 deaths each year, survival disparities between babies born to African-American and Caucasian mothers continue to widen, a reality that author and Office of Minority Health (OMH) spokesperson Tonya Lewis Lee vowed to combat Wednesday with her launch of the Crisis in the Crib documentary.

Lee joined Department of Health and Human Services leaders, journalist Jeff Johnson and Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr. Howard Koh at the National Press Club to mark National Infant Mortality Awareness Month and unveil the 30-minute video presentation.

"I didn't have to lose a child to know that I had to get involved," said Lee.

The United States currently ranks 29th in infant mortality, with African-American women twice more at risk than their white counterparts.

As part of OMH's "A Healthy Baby Begins with You" campaign, the video along with other minority health initiatives focuses on the work of student peer educators seeking to raise awareness about this escalating concern.

The documentary uses personal accounts to highlight the triggers of infant mortality — stresses that

result from combating racism, heading single family homes and lacking access to healthy produce. These pressures imperil the health of thousands of African-American women daily, sometimes crossing socioeconomic lines.

Stacey Cunningham, executive director for the National Healthy Start Association, described the documentary premiere as a "great way to kick off infant awareness month," and praised Johnson's involvement.

"Jeff Johnson spotlights the importance of the man's presence and shows the impact men have on women and children's health," Cunningham said.

She said, "Sometimes children see abilities in daddy that they don't always see in mommy. The father's role is really important."

Cunningham's co-worker Phyllis George, the program manager for NHSA, said the presentation reshaped the way she views her clients and their experiences.

"I have been working in this field for 10 years, but that documentary encapsulates all my meetings with moms and dads who have lost children," George said. "It gives me the passion to move forward. I've always enjoyed my work, but today, I saw how what I do truly affects people's lives."

Maaden Eshete, a preconception peer educator and Morgan State University student shared her close-



Suspect Hits, Runs Near The Bethune Annex

After 9:00 p.m. on weeknights, the streets within Howard's campus are usually quiet, as students are turning in and preparing for the next day of classes.

Although, for the second time this week, the Metropolitan Police were called to handle yet another car incident on campus. Around 9:30 p.m. Wednesday night, a three car hit-and-run unfolded on the intersection between 4th and Bryant streets. Among the victims were Khalil Muhsin, a 2008 Howard Alumni who willingly shared his story.

"I saw the car coming quickly behind me; he turned fast and hit my rear door," said Muhsin.

The suspect attempted to getaway. After making the turn, the stolen sea green Chrysler bumped heads with a Ford Crown Victoria. It was at this moment that the suspect decided to end the car chase and take off on foot.

A graduate student who claimed to have seen the whole thing said she overheard a police officer say the car was stolen, which Muhsin later confirmed. According to Muhsin, Howard's campus, particularly in front of the Annex has always been a busy area. He said, "I've almost been hit by a car on this same street."

The Metropolitan Police had no comment.

- Milan Kumin, Editorial Assistant

Fine Arts To Host Concert

 BY CAMILLE AUGUSTIN
 Staff Writer

On Friday, Sept. 11, 2009, the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council (ASSC) Fine Arts Committee will host a memorial concert entitled Epiphany, A Premonition of Excellence, in the Blackburn Gallery lounge at 12 p.m.

At this concert, music department students will have the opportunity to showcase their talents to the Howard community.

"We will be celebrating the lives of those lost through music, as opposed to having a somber event," said Dorien Blythers, ASSC executive president.

"People should expect to see students in the music division of Fine Arts perform music selections and well known pieces," he continued.

Blythers also said that students will tell different stories about the loved ones lost on September 11, 2001.

This event serves as the inauguration of a series of events in hopes of raising money for the Fine Arts division. The finale event will be a concert, which the committee hopes will be headlined by a major artist.

According to Blythers, the purpose of the concert is to bridge the gap between the Fine Arts department and the College of Arts and Sciences and bring awareness to the students' talents.

Coordinator of the event, and senior music business major, Andrea Jackson, said the "best of the best" students from the music department will be performing.

"This is the first event of the Fine Arts Benefit concert that will showcase instrumentalists, jazz performers, contemporary artists and students performing original pieces," said Jackson. "We want to show people what the music department is producing and what you get out of the music department when you invest in it."

Jackson stated that not many people know the talents that students in the music department possess.

"Some people think that we just stay in the fine arts building and practice our vocals or instruments," said Jackson. "With this event, students will show their talents and people will see what the music department is about."

The number one collegiate international vocalist, Christie Dashfiel, and independent artist, Rachel Robinson, are some among the many talented people that will be performing Friday. Rachel Robinson is a Howard student who has performed at Homecoming and sang backup for several artists.

encounter with infant mortality.

Her younger sister, now a healthy college junior, weighed a mere two pounds at birth.

Eshete encouraged others to join the fight, whether or not they can claim a personal stake in the issue.

"Share this message because at the end of the day we are all peer educators. We all have a responsibility to strengthen our communities," Eshete said. "This is not just a minority health issue. This is a human health issue."

The UnderGrad Transition



BY VICTORIA KIRBY
Contributing Columnist

Howard University is a place that is truly unique and irreplaceable. It has birthed several movements in America's history and a list of distinguished alumni whose careers span across a variety of industries and fields. I have heard a number of misconceptions about the undergraduate experience at Howard. In each class there are students who have heard a variety of rumors about what it was like to attend Howard as an undergrad. Some of these rumors are true, but most of them are unfounded and have caused me to address them.

Myth #1: Howard is not diverse.

Truth: Howard was a great place to attend because of its unmatched diversity. Nearly every state in the USA is represented and over 100 countries. We have one of the highest percentages of international students in the nation. Most people view diversity within the context of white America, which is why when they hear HBCU they only think black. They do not realize the rich diversity inherent in Black America. Some have said that Howard does not adequately represent the world, but one class with Dr. Gregory Carr will teach you that the world is made up of a majority of minorities. Thus, Howard has a better picture of the real world than most other universities in our country.

Myth #2: Howard was not challenging.

Truth: Howard challenged me in a way that I have never had to be challenged. Some of my colleagues boast that they were able to be positive examples of a Black person for individuals not familiar. However, I spent most of my life being an example. Howard taught me how to truly be competitive. I was not selected or had to prove myself due to my race. Every one of us had to start at the same level and I was judged purely on the content of my character. As much as people talk about the administration building, I have learned to turn my documents in on time (so they'll be processed on time), I have learned to make copies of everything, and I have learned how to network. Howard students were the first students to be educated with the same curriculum used at the nation's best institutions, the one's that started the Harlem Renaissance, the students that kicked off the Civil Rights Movement, the students that started student's rights campaigns, and the students who have become the leaders in Black America. We were picked as the best of the best: class valedictorians, national merit finalists, class presidents, captains of athletic teams, community servants, and social justice leaders. As a result, we were held to higher standards. We represent the best that our race has to offer.

Yes, we may have historic buildings, manual processes, and dorms without air conditioning, but we also have a heritage that makes each and every Howard graduate stand tall and proud. So, to all of my colleagues: welcome to the Mecca. Welcome to the responsibility of leadership, excellence, service, and truth. In a couple of years you will also understand why Howard graduates stand so tall. It isn't arrogance, it is the confidence in knowing that you were educated because you are the best and experience hallowed grounds. Most importantly, you will renew the legacy of the giants whose shoulders all of America stands on.

Graduate student's Victoria Kirby columns are available on thehilltoponline.com (click on the "Voices on Campus blog.")



Howard University senior biology major Iman Sylvain chants, which is comparable to praying, at a local Washington, D.C. Buddhist meeting.

Howard Brings In A New Buddhist Club

BY VICTORIA FORTUNE
Staff Writer

Howard University. Not only is it the "Mecca of Black Education," but the center of various practiced religions as well. From Christianity to Buddhism, students are free to openly express their faith as much as desired.

Senior print journalism major Zelena Williams has begun the process of creating the Howard University Buddhist Club. She has been practicing Buddhism for almost two years, but became an official member of the Soka Gakkai International on August 24, 2008.

"Soka Gakkai International is the lay organization associ-

ated with the following Nichiren Doshonin' Buddhism. Nichiren Doshonin lived in 13th century Japan and studied the life and the teachings of the sutras, or books, written by Shakyamuni Buddha," said Williams.

Although Williams was raised as a southern Baptist, her experience at the Brookland Buddhist Center while on trail for Ubiquity was life changing.

"I was skeptical at first about the practice. 'Just chant and you'll see,' they said. And I was, of course, in utter disbelief. Chanting some Asian words? What? 'I'm not a monk!' I thought. But there have been wonderful things that have happened to me because of this practice," Williams said.

Williams said that the similarities in beliefs overcame the differences in language and culture.

"We believe in self empowerment - that anything and everything that you want and need can be done and you have the power to do it."

After realizing how powerful the Buddhist experience was, Williams decided it was only right to share her experience with others, hence the start of the Buddhist club.

"This practice helped me to establish a rhythm and get through many papers and assignments that I didn't have any motivation whatsoever to finish. Also, because I feel that at this crucial point in our people's history and Howard's

history, we need an entity that is neutral on all necessary levels."

The Buddhist club is, accepting of all people, races, sexual orientations and religions.

Williams's main goal for the club is to have an outlet for Buddhists on the campus of Howard University.

"I want to also use this new organization as a platform by which other religious, or religious affiliated clubs can engage in progressive dialogue in relation to our community and personal beliefs."

The Buddhist club is currently in the process of being recognized as an official organization by Howard University. Look out for flyers in reference to meetings.

Smalls' Abnormal Heart Keeps Beating

BY VICTORIA FORTUNE
Staff Writer

As the door closes, the music is lowered. The base of a song that currently has no lyrics delivers sound that has never felt so powerful.

The tempo of this song is mysterious, for no one can really recognize it unless it is truly felt within the soul. One off beat can equate to the death of what could've been a great record. This beat is the tempo of Joseph "Smalls" Jackson's heart.

Jackson is a junior telecommunications management major at Howard University. Not only is he a dedicated father, full-time student, marketing representative for BET, and the promotions manager for WHBC, but he is also a survivor.

What many may not know about Jackson is that he was born with two holes in his heart and one working lung. More than what meets the eye, he is in need of a major heart and lung operation that is out of reach due to financial reasons.

"When I was 17 my good lung collapsed. When I was 25 I had a heart attack," Jackson said. "Last year, I had a heart arrhythmia where I blacked out, and woke up with big knot on my head in the hospital."

Heart arrhythmia is an irregular heartbeat and sometimes can cause an irregular heart rate. According to the American Heart Association, Arrhythmias are common; about 2.2 million Americans are living with arterial fibrillation. Arrhythmias can lead to heart disease, stroke, or sudden cardiac death.

"My heart will beat really

fast, then it will just stop and then I faint," Jackson said.

In the case of another arrhythmia, Jackson is often required to wear a "Life Vest." If his heart should happen to stop, the Life Vest will shock his heart back into his normal pace.

"For me this is normal because I know how to control it now," he said.

Jackson truly believes that it was through the grace of God that he survived the heart attack at age 25. Upon finding out he was having a heart attack he drove himself to the hospital. When finally seen by a physician, there was only 20 percent of oxygen left in his body.

"Time and time again God keeps showing me that 'there's something about you Smalls that needs to be shared.' I guess because if it wasn't then I'll be gone by now."

Looking at "Smalls" on the outside, no one would ever know the everyday personal challenges he faces. Growing up around a hardworking father and spiritual mother, he was never taught to be weak.

It is quite evident that the values instilled by his parents were well received. He was unable to do sports as a kid so he put his efforts into other dreams. At the tender age of 9, Jackson was performing in talent shows and writing his own raps.

"As a kid, I couldn't play basketball or football because I was always sick so I would listen to music. I was always recording, getting kicked out of class for rapping. That's what everybody always knew me for," Jackson said. "Music has always been my lifeline, a way to express myself."

His passion for music did



Photo Courtesy of Joseph Jackson

Joseph "Smalls" Jackson, pictured right, doesn't let his heart condition stop his heart from beating strong for his future.

not end there. Jackson currently works with Billboard charted producer Zaytoven and mixes and creates tracks for his own mix tape as well.

Although Jackson is happy about the direction he is headed in, his current health condition reminds him that tomorrow is not promised.

"I could've easily been like man this is for the birds. I'm sick [and] I want to die, but I was like no, this is not going be my ending chapter," Jackson said.

Jackson projects his surgery costing over \$500,000.

"I'm all for President Obama's health care reform, however seeing is believing," he said. "There has got to be some type of stipulations to it, however, I think that the passing of the reform

would help."

Until the bill is passed or Jackson comes across a divine intervention, he will continue to survive without the much needed operation.

"One thing people will never see is my truest pain. I don't do the pity party thing. I'd rather suffer in silence and just live life," Jackson said. "I think that's why a lot of people here at school don't even know a lot about me. I don't share that type of stuff. It's life, that happens. This is the deck of cards God gave me, so lets play."

The door opens and the music is raised as the reoccurring constant beat continues to thump. No longer is it a mysterious sound, but the creation of a record hoping to be picked up by the best producer in the industry.



Green Tip #5

When cleaning your dorm rooms try to use biodegradable cleaning products, which contains less petroleum and keeps toxins from the environment.

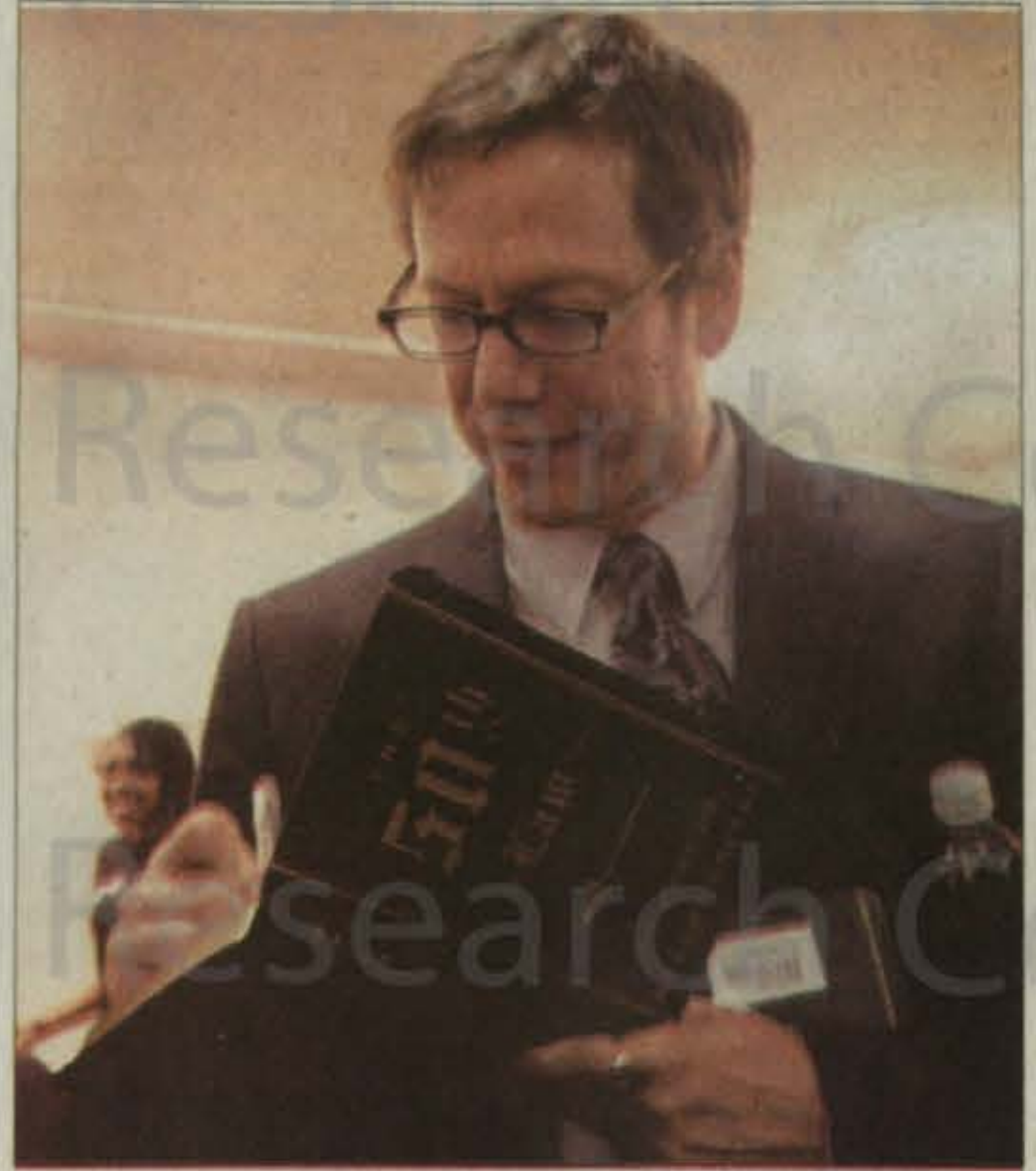
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50 Cent Gives Students Advice on Being Entrepreneurs



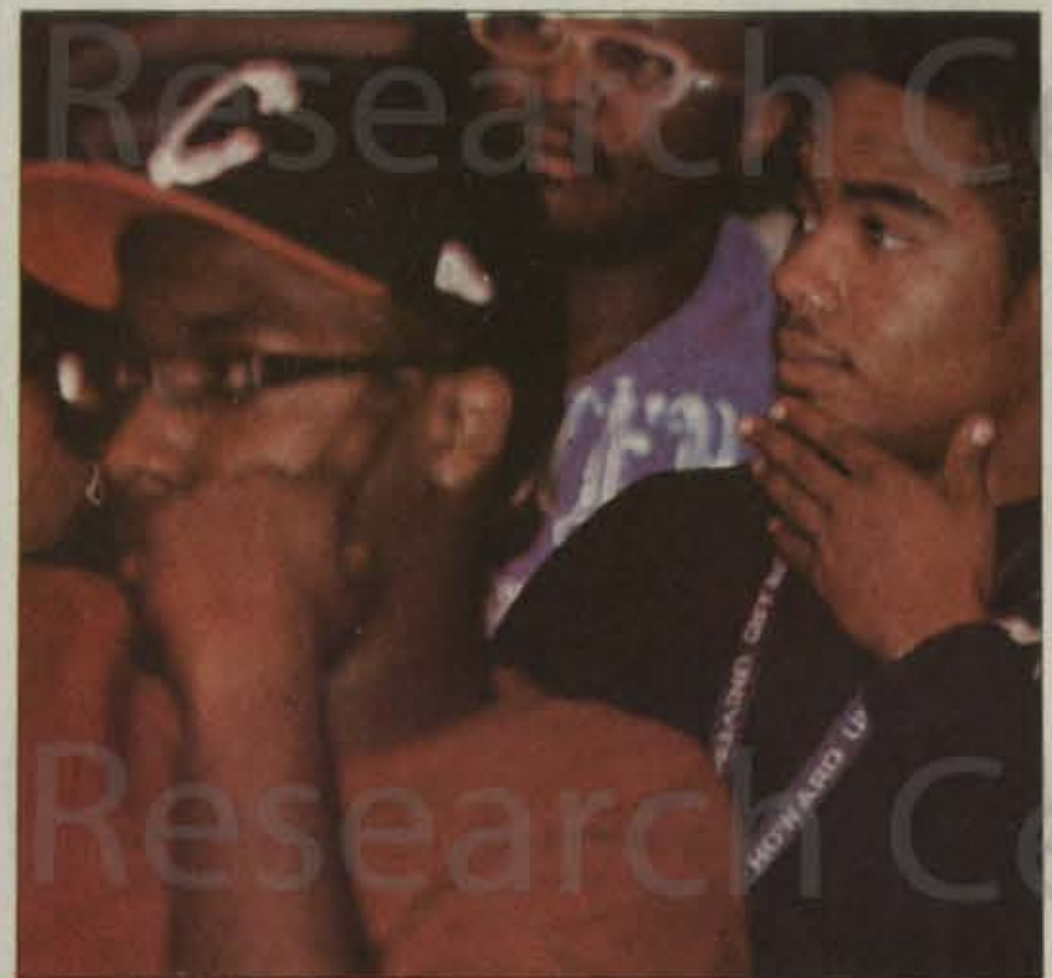
Robert Green and Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson answer a question proposed by a student at a program about his book.



Robert Green sings a copy of his newly published book "The 50th Law".



Dani Johnson a freshman biology major won first place for her business plan R Cube BINS about recycling.



Donavon Murphy (right) a freshman biology major was one of many students who went to Cramton Auditorium to listen to 50 Cent.

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The Office of Student Activities Presents:

Howard Idol

Semi-Finals
Wednesday,
September 9, 2009
7:00 PM
Blackburn Center Game Room

Final Performance
& Selection
of the 2009 Howard Idol
Thursday,
September 10, 2009
7:00 PM
Blackburn Center Ballroom

For more information, please contact norbaker@howard.edu or
183-456-1555

YouTube Considers Video Rentals

BY TROY WOLVERTON
San Jose Mercury News (MCT)

SAN JOSE, Calif. - YouTube is in talks with some of the major Hollywood studios about allowing the giant video site to rent movies to consumers.

YouTube and the studios are still working out the details of the deal, such as what consumers would pay and how soon after films are released in theaters they would be available on the site. But the service could be up and running by the end of the year, said a source familiar with the matter.

YouTube, owned by Google, declined to comment on or confirm the negotiations, which were first reported in *The Wall Street Journal*.

"While we don't comment on rumor or speculation, we hope to expand on both our great relationship with movie studios and on the selection and types of videos we offer our community," YouTube said in a statement.

Among the studios YouTube is reportedly talking with are Sony, which produced the "Spider Man" movies; Warner Bros., which was behind the "Harry Potter" and "Batman" films; and Lionsgate, the leading independent studio, which produced Best Picture winner "Crash."

Sony and Warner Bros. representatives declined to comment on the negotiations with YouTube.

Similarly, Lionsgate declined to comment or confirm the talks. But spokesman Peter Wilkes said, "We are always exploring alternatives for monetizing our content in the digital environment."

A deal would seem to make sense for both YouTube and the studios. YouTube is the dominant online video site, with a huge audience that the studios presumably would love to reach.

Senior biology major, Mathias Dunwoody, frequents YouTube for the latest music, audio up-

loads and how-to videos.

He can also reach the Web site via his iPhone and thinks a possible video rental deal is a good idea.

"I think it's a great deal for movie studios and YouTube to work together and start a movie rental service to its subscribers," he said. "So many videos are watched daily anyway, so there won't be a problem in having that become a part of an already popular entity."

Of the 158 million U.S. Internet users who watched an online video in July, 76 percent tuned into one of Google's sites, typically YouTube, according to comScore. And of the 500 minutes the average Internet user spent watching online videos last month, 200 were spent watching videos on YouTube or other Google sites.

But YouTube is facing a number of challenges. The site has been famously unprofitable for Google to date. That's partly because of the cost of housing the millions of videos stored on it. But it's also partly because the company has had a difficult time running ads on the vast majority of videos on the site.

Meanwhile, over the past year, YouTube's share of the total minutes consumers watch online has fallen, thanks in part to Hulu, a video site that doesn't have YouTube's roots in user-produced videos and instead only offers professionally produced TV shows and movies. YouTube in recent months has been inking deals with major entertainment companies to increase its own selection of professional videos.

Calvin Seino, a sophomore information systems and analysis major, uses YouTube for entertainment.

"It would defeat the whole purpose of me using YouTube. The fact that it's free," said the student.



Paradey Okoro - Photo Editor

YouTube users utilize the site for several personal reasons. Currently, YouTube and Hollywood studios are working on plans to rent videos to users.

The current negotiations are an outgrowth of those previous deals, through which YouTube offers a selection of ad-supported movies and TV shows. YouTube gives a majority of the revenue it earns from advertisements run on those videos to the content owners. The proposed new deal most likely would include a source share for rental revenue, the source said.

The service would be similar to the digital movie rental services offered by Amazon.com and Apple's iTunes in that consumers would rent movies a la carte, rather than pay a monthly subscription as they do for Netflix. That said,

the two sides haven't come to an agreement yet whether consumers would only be able to stream the movies or whether they would also be able to download them so that they could watch them in places that lack an Internet. Similarly, the two sides haven't reached an agreement on whether consumers would be able to rent the videos on devices other than their PCs. YouTube has been striking deals with a variety of device makers to get its service on mobile phones, such as Apple's iPhone and living room devices, such as TiVo's DVRs.

Quirky News in Biz & Tech

Naughty American University, an adult video company, was sued by National American University for its use of the acronym NAU.

The suit blamed the company for trademark violations and cyber piracy.

The university offers online degrees in its 16 campuses in South Dakota, Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico and Texas.

Dlorah Inc., the school's parent company, dropped its suit against La Touraine Inc. after

the corporation agreed to stop using the school's trademark.

Filed in May, the suit asked for financial damages after the adult company began selling explicit material under the name "Fast Times at NAU."

Both sides reached an agreement last Monday and the Web site has removed all college themes.

Twitter, once again, broke new ground. This

time it kept the loved ones of a 70-year-old patient.

Monna Cleary, comforted when Cleary was in surgery.

"It's real time information instead of sitting and not knowing in the waiting room," said Cleary's son, Joe, to CBSNews.com.

Cleary underwent surgery at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Mich., and family members were informed of her well-being 140 characters at a time on a laptop in the hospital's waiting room.

The woman gave the hospital's spokeswoman, Sarah Corizzo, permission to post her surgery's play-by-play on Twitter, and Corizzo sent more than 300 tweets in the more than three hour time span.

Corizzo said the posts raised the hospital's profile, kept the family up-to-date, and educated the public.

Compiled by Alexis K. Barnes, B & T Section Editor

Avoid Phony Deals in the Recession

With the economy in "not so great" shape, more consumers have dedicated time to clipping coupons and scouring store ads for deals and bargains.

Times of recession call for frugal spending, and almost everywhere you look, companies promise sales, freebies and other "too good to be true" discounts.

CBS MoneyWatch.com editor, Jill Schlesinger, offered some tips on the "Early Show" last Tuesday on how to watch out for phony deals.

Categories such as unlimited long distance, frequent-flyer reward cards, checking accounts that pay interest and extended warranty protection are all things that Howard students can utilize after making sure the deal is actually cost effective.

With a smart eye and recognition of all the small print, HU students can take advantage of a couple of these good bargains and avoid phony deals.

1. Frequent-Flyer Reward Cards

This deal seems like an automatic bargain especially to out-of-state HU students who want to fly home during holidays and breaks.

In its early days, credit cards that rewarded the user with airline miles or gift points offered many benefits, but now the benefits have shrunk.

Many airlines have increased the miles needed for a free flight or reduced schedules so that free seats are more difficult to find.

Many airlines have even instituted a booking fee on reward flights, while the annual fees on some credit cards actually outweigh the perks.

American Express Platinum, for example, offers a complimentary plane ticket for every first or business-class ticket bought. This includes concierge service and free access to airport lounges.

The card's annual fee, however, is \$450, so unless the user books many first or business class flights, the "deal" is not worth it.

A better alternative is cash-reward cards like Blue Cash from American Express. Users receive up to five percent cash back on gas, grocery and drug store purchases.

With this cash, users can save for necessities like flights home.

2. Extended-Warranty Protection

It makes sense for students to consider extended-warranties a

good deal - especially with all the equipment, appliances and electronics brought to school.

MoneyWatch.com editor, Jill Schlesinger, urges consumers not to purchase these plans, however, and take note of their standard manufacturer's warranty that may already cover some repairs.

Researchers at Consumer Reports find that products rarely break within the extended-warranty period and when they do, average costs match the price of the warranty.

A better alternative lies in your credit card. Many credit cards, especially platinum and gold ones, offer warranty extensions when the item is bought with that card.

It varies with cards, but most will extend the warranty for a full year.

3. Going-out-of-Business sales

The prices at these bankrupt retailers may seem too good to be true, and they are.

The deals you see may not even be better than when the sale began, and consumers may find better bargains at rival stores trying to out-do the liquidating establishment. Those retailers will also still be around down the road after the liquidating store is out of business.

Better alternatives are Web sites like PriceGrabber.com and Shopping.com where you can compare a plethora of stores.

4. "Free" Credit Reports

Credit ratings are important to college students, especially graduating seniors about to step out into the "real world." Many employers are even using the score in job application processes.

In an age of increased identity theft, online credit report companies have flourished offering free credit reports.

After a seven-day trial membership of FreeCreditReport.com, the credit-monitoring company will bill you \$14.95 a month until the consumer opts out.

A better alternative lies at AnnualCreditReport.com, a government approved site that offers a free credit report each year from the three major credit bureaus.

Students can also get an estimate of their scores at CreditKarma.com or Credit.com.

Compiled by Alexis K. Barnes, courtesy of CBS MoneyWatch.com editor Jill Schlesinger

Money Talk\$



BY ALEXIS K. BARNES
Business & Technology Editor

Three day weekends do something to me. Just when I reach that Sunday evening mark and begrudgingly think about that Monday morning grind, the little kid in me - who many of my friends have met on numerous occasions - starts yelling "nope...one more day of nooooo school! lalalalala."

Usually, I take full advantage of this little blessing by going to the beach, barbecuing, just overall relaxation.

What did you do this Labor Day Alexis?

I am glad you asked Biz & Tech readers. I worked. Though I granted myself a sleep-in morning, as soon as I collected myself I went straight to school work, *Hilltop* work, real employment work.

For a moment, I was resentful. Then, with the help of CNN, I realized millions of unemployed citizens across the country would love to be in my resentful position.

It was during a peanut butter and banana sandwich break that it hit me: Being an adult really stifles the child in you.

I really miss those days where the most important thing on my mind was what color bobo to wear in my puffs. Instead of being off somewhere frolicking (yes, I frolic), I was forced to keep up with the excess of work you must do juggling a full-time HU course load, executive board positions in extracurricular activities and part-time employment.

There are not enough hours in the day. So true is this statement that people even use the hours of a day dedicated to the relaxation of our nation's workers to...work.

According to the United States Department of Labor Web site, the first Monday in September is set aside to honor the social and economic achievements of American workers.

General Secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, Peter J. McGuire, said Labor Day should honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

Even after more than 100 years of the day being observed, origins are still unclear. Some say McGuire proposed the holiday for American workers, while others attribute it to the observation of Canadian labor disputes and the parades held in support of them.

Regardless of its origination, the holiday has become like the "last fling" of summer before we break out the Uggs to wear with our mini skirts (please don't). Most schools begin the week following the holiday, and weather takes a turn from August heat to September chill.

Although Howard starts before Sept. 7, students still party like they did not just finish two weeks of classes. The Department of Labor Web site stated that the vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy.

In that way, the U.S. Department of Labor believes it is appropriate that the nation pays tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership - the American worker.

How touching. I can't wait for the holiday that honors the centuries of unpaid sweat, blood and tears our ancestors shed to help contribute to America's "traditional ideals of economic and political democracy."

Fenty Encourages D.C. Residents To Know Their HIV/AIDS Status



D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty's new campaign aims to combat the city's HIV/AIDS crisis. "Ask for the Test" encourages all residents to get tested for the virus during their next medical visit so they are aware of their status.

BY TSIGHIE FOSTER
Contributing Writer

It is a known fact that Washington, D.C. has the worst HIV infection rate in the country.

With at least three percent of District residents currently living with HIV or AIDS, this fact has upset some people, and inspired others to take action.

Mayor Adrian Fenty wants to make a change in the city. He cre-

ated a campaign that will encourage residents to ask their doctors for an HIV test. In a press release from the D.C. Department of Health, Fenty said, "Knowing your status is not just about personal health, but ensuring the health of the entire D.C. community by preventing the spread of HIV."

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Web site, in 2008, there were about 40,000 new HIV infections in the U.S., and

one-quarter of these people did not know they were infected. In the District, one-third to one-half of residents with HIV do not know their status.

HIV is a virus that can be spread from person to person in three main ways, through sexual contact, sharing needles, or from mother to child during pregnancy or breast feeding.

In an effort to take action against the spread of the disease,

Fenty said that the city will promote the campaign through television, radio and billboards.

"I get one [a test] yearly," said Joy Benson, a resident of D.C. "Matter of fact, I just left the doctor's office."

She says that she feels people do not get tested because they are afraid of knowing. "It is best to know, so go and get tested," Benson said. After being a nurse for twenty years, she knows the importance of getting tested.

New York native Shane Richards recently visited Washington for a weekend and said that he was already aware of the nation's capital HIV/AIDS crisis.

"I am not from D.C., but I come here often and I definitely know that there is a very high population of HIV/AIDS holders in D.C.," Richards said.

Richards feels that the problem exists because people are not aware of their status and infect others, sometimes unknowingly.

Fenty's main goal with the campaign is to encourage everyone to simply get tested and become knowledgeable of their status by asking their doctor for an HIV/AIDS test during their next medical visit.

There are many ways to prevent the spread of the HIV/AIDS virus, including engaging in protected sex, and using sterile and unused needles. People can prevent HIV/AIDS by being aware of the facts and risks.

AROUND TOWN: Frederick Douglass National Historic Site Offers Films, Tours

BY JUSTIN AMEY
Contributing Writer

Washington, D.C. has a long history and is rich in culture with many treasured sites worth visiting. The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (NHS) is a prime example.

Visitors can watch a documentary film, view exhibits, and even tour the Victorian estate

where Douglass lived in as the U.S. Marshall of D.C. The estate has been preserved as the Frederick Douglass home. It sits on top of a hill and 90 percent of the artifacts belonged to Douglass and his family.

Douglass was one of the most prominent Black figures in U.S. history. After escaping slavery, he fought for the abolition of slavery through novels, speeches, and visits to other countries.

"The story of Frederick Douglass is inspiring and there's so much we can learn," Chelsea Hogan, an interpretive ranger said. "The owning of a Victorian home is a profound achievement. Anything he owns is amazing, given he began life as property."

The Frederick Douglass NHS is open to the public, and free tours can be made with a reservation. Tourists, families, and college students are a common

sight. The visitor's center tells the story of Douglass and his life's work through the well preserved home.

Thanks to pictures and written descriptions from Ellen Pitts Douglass, his second wife, everything is left intact. Portraits, libraries, and family rooms are all in their proper place. The tour guides bring the place to life through detailed descriptions of every room in the house and discussions about key events in Douglass' life. Anyone who goes on the tour leaves with a greater sense of who Frederick Douglass was and his importance to American society.

"The Douglass home is spectacular. To think an African American lived in a 16 acre home at that time is amazing to me. He led a respectful life," said D'Arcy Nunn, a visitor who toured the Douglass home.

Through his work, Douglass gained respect from across the globe and influenced future generations. In a speech entitled "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?", Douglass points out the hypocrisy of Independence Day while highlighting the devastating effects of slavery. This speech was made in front of a white audience.

Douglass' courage and determination allowed him to take bold steps in fighting for freedom. He also advocated post slavery rights for Blacks and women's rights. Douglass also influenced future activists such as W.E.B. DuBois and Malcolm X.

The Frederick Douglass NHS is located at 1411 W St. in Anacostia, off the Anacostia Metro station on the Green Line. Reservations can be made on site or at <http://www.nps.gov/frdo/index.htm>.



Frederick Douglass made significant contributions in the advancement of Blacks as a former slave turned activist. His home in Southeast allows visitors to learn about his life and work.

Metro Briefs

Obama to Deliver Back-to-School Address at Local High School

Today, high school students at Wakefield High School in Arlington, Va. will be greeted into their new school year with a visit from the country's president. Barack Obama will give his national back-to-school speech at the school, but the message will be broadcast around the nation via C-SPAN and the White House Web site.

Obama plans to encourage students to set goals and work to their full potential. Wakefield ranks as the nation's most economically and racially diverse school.

Taxi Driver Taken to HUH after Robbery, Shooting

This past weekend, a 70-year-old taxi driver was the victim of robbery and shooting in Northeast D.C. After the 2 p.m. incident that occurred near the driver's taxi, he was transported to the Howard University Hospital (HUH). There, he received treatment for a gunshot wound to the stomach and was in a stable condition.

The three assailants were found in an apartment on Maryland Avenue. Police searched the apartment and took the men into custody to investigate into their role in the taxi driver's attack.

Woman Gets Engaged While Hiking, Falls

On Sunday, a couple got engaged while hiking on the Billy Goat Trail in Potomac, Maryland. After her now fiancé proposed to her, the woman tripped over a rock, falling 10 feet, injuring herself. After falling, she was unconscious for a few moments, and sustained bruises and bumps on her head and chest.

U.S. Park Police came to the rescue and air-lifted her away from the trail via helicopter. The accident is not attributed to personal irresponsibility or negligence but simply to the rough terrain.

Peaceholics Mentor Accused of Molestation

In the D.C. Superior Court, trial is underway for the investigation of a Peaceholics mentor accused of molesting a 15-year-old student at Spingarn High School. Barry Harrison was assigned to work as a counselor and mentor at the high school. He was previously jailed for a 1984 murder and was arrested last year for drug possession.

The 14-person jury is hearing the case of 50-year-old Harrison, accused of forcibly leading the young student to a basement stairway and kissing and fondling her. He is facing five counts of assault and sexual abuse of a minor. In his defense, it is alleged that the girl and her friends set him up because they wished to get him fired.

—Compiled by
Genet Lakew, Metro Editor

Interested in covering area events and writing community stories?
E-mail hilltopmetro@gmail.com or come out to a budget meeting Sundays at 6 p.m.



ZORAS VOICE WAS HEARD THROUGH HER LEGACY, THE HILLTOP.

BEGIN BUILDING YOUR LEGACY TODAY.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 9, 2009

Dear Howard University Student Body:

Since fall 2008, I have publicly declared the need for an improved student experience at Howard University. In some areas, we have made great progress. I agree that more needs to be done to enhance student services. We take the concerns raised by our students very seriously and are dedicated to finding solutions. As such, we will continue to meet with student leadership in an environment of mutual respect – as we have done on a regular basis since the beginning of this administration – to find answers. We maintain an unwavering commitment to providing a high-quality education. As collective members of our academic community, we have a shared investment in the future of every student and we will do everything possible to assure success.

I am pleased to report that we have addressed some of the issues that student leaders raised last week and others are in the process of being addressed. Our ability to address a number of these issues will require additional resources and the strategic reallocation of existing resources. As you know, all of higher education is facing unprecedented challenges in these tough economic times. Our university, like many others across the country, is being called upon to do more with less. Notwithstanding, in areas of critical need, we will allocate the resources necessary to ensure that we fulfill our commitment to our students.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Issues related to student enrollment and Student Financial Services are recurring themes in our discussions with students. After processing more than 24,000 new student admission applications, accepting almost 8,000, and issuing permits to enroll approximately 3,660, we opened the University with much excitement and anticipation for the fall 2009 semester. By all accounts, with the active involvement of student leaders and organizations, the University's residence hall move-in and orientation (school and college pinning ceremonies and the Howard University Student Association initiated Picture This event) were very successful. Our new students were joined by continuing students, many of whom had participated in general registration and had satisfied all their financial obligations to the University. We successfully registered more than 10,000 students and validated nearly 8,000 of them.

We instituted for the first time in the history of the University a need-based financial aid program. Through this program, we have awarded need-based aid to more than 1,200 students, preserving their access to a Howard University education.

We acknowledge that upcoming deadlines to fulfill validation requirements may heighten students' anxiety. To address this concern, we have further extended the hours of Student Financial Services to a schedule of 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday) until September 25.

To accommodate the expected number, selected Student Financial Service functions will be moved to the Blackburn Center beginning on Friday, September 11. Appropriate staff will be available to assist in processing outstanding student accounts. We expect approximately 95 percent of students to be financially validated by September 25. As we move forward, we will encourage students to be part of an advisory committee for student financial services. The Office of the Provost will work with Financial Services and the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) to solidify the functions of this group to ensure that representatives operate in accordance with the legal guidelines around student privacy.

FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

This fall, we were successful in placing in on-campus housing more than 4,000 students who had completed timely housing reservations. While we are at full capacity, we have established a waiting list and will notify students of vacancies. Certainly, there is a critical need for additional housing. Notwithstanding the current economic climate, we are working aggressively to identify funding sources to finance additional residential housing for our students.

Our libraries are important and valuable resources. A few years ago, the findings of a study of student usage did not indicate the need for 24-hour service. The result was the current schedule of library hours, which lengthens the hours during times of peak usage. During fall and spring semesters, Founders and The Undergraduate (UGL) Library close at midnight on Mondays through Thursdays and maintain shorter hours on weekends. During the reading and finals periods, the UGL remains open 24 hours. In the current financial climate, we cannot afford year long 24-hour staffing of the libraries if they are not being utilized. Where there is a demand and demonstrated need for usage, however, the hours will be re-evaluated.

The role of information technology in a competitive academic environment cannot be overstated. As with other institutions, our challenge to address technology innovations as they emerge is ongoing. However, the demands on our resources require a prudent approach to upgrades in this sector. We are executing a phased approach to wireless connectivity. As recently as last week, we completed the framework to provide wireless Internet to the College of Dentistry. Each year, we plan to make incremental steps toward a wireless campus. We have also received a proposal to address the "paperless university" and will meet with student leadership to discuss technical feasibility.

The University over the last five years has made significant investments to ensure its compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Between 2007-2009, 47 elevators were renovated campus-wide. Other buildings, including the Blackburn University Center, the Undergraduate Library and Locke Hall, have new exterior doors, which are ADA compliant. Restrooms in many campus and academic buildings have been modified and several are underway, including the CB Powell Building. The designs for renovations for entrances of Founders, Thirkield Hall and Rankin Chapel have been completed. Work on Douglass Hall is forthcoming. Our infrastructure requires routine assessment to ensure that access by members of the community who require special accommodations is not compromised.

OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES

The University's recycling program will be launched before the end of September 2009. The improvements around campus will include making recycle bins available in academic buildings and our residence halls.

We are continuing our national search for a permanent Provost and Vice President for Student Affairs. Students continue to be actively involved on the search committees, which are also composed of faculty and administrators. This fall, we expect that the pool of candidates will be narrowed and the finalists selected will be invited to campus to meet with key stakeholders. The goal is to have the positions filled by January 2010.

Our University values due process for students, faculty and staff. There have been several expressions of concern involving personnel issues and the judiciary process. In handling all such matters, it is important for us to follow the respective codes of conduct. Formal complaints will be handled appropriately.

We continue to believe that every member of our community should be aware of the budget of the University and its priorities. For the first time in the history of Howard, last year the University established the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), which included HUSA student representatives and faculty, staff and administrators. The BAC recommended to me budget priorities for the University. With few exceptions, I endorsed the BAC's recommendations and presented them to the Board of Trustees for approval. The BAC is a vehicle for helping Howard align its resources with its goals. To view the recommendations and supporting documents of the committee, please visit <http://www.provost.howard.edu/HUBudgetProcess.asp>. At all times, the BAC maintained a level of commitment and transparency to the fiscal work being completed. Having as chair of the BAC, Dr. Alvin Thornton (Interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer), speaks to the commitment of placing the budget in direct support of our academic programs.

There are many in this university family – students, faculty, staff, administration, alumni and friends – who care about the present and the future of Howard. Like you, we love Howard University and are committed to building on its legacy and developing it into a unique place in the academic world – a university that is responsive and that continues to be excellent.

We are confident that assuming collective responsibility for our many challenges will result in a strengthened University.

Sincerely,

Sidney A. Ribeau
President



2400 Sixth Street, NW • Suite 402
Washington, DC 20059

(202) 806-2500
Fax (202) 806-9243

Take It From The Top



BY CRYSTAL J. ALLEN
Editor-in-Chief

Momentarily inspiring? Yes. Questionable, after the fact? Absolutely.

I know everyone has been talking about last week's protest over and over again, and I won't beat a dead horse. However, I've had a few things that, since last Friday, I could not wait to share, get off my chest, if you will.

I'm not speaking of the actual protest, when I say I was momentarily inspired; I'm speaking of the student body. With that, I want you to completely understand me. I was undoubtedly inspired by the cohesiveness of the Howard student body. It reminded me of movements I thought I'd only see in old newspapers and documentaries. I looked at my peers and saw leaders in every single one of us. Of course I was inspired.

How long did it last? That's another story.

See, I have a problem with students who jump on the bandwagon just because they see others doing the same thing. So, it's no wonder that my excitement died down when I saw just that. There were students shouting for Vice Provost Charles Gibbs to come outside the 'A' building without even knowing why they were calling him.

I have a problem with students sitting in their dorm rooms or in The Punchout, just as "non-validated" as the rest of us, too lazy to walk up the hill to join the protest but stretching those thumb muscles to the max — "tweeting" away about how Diddy was supporting us in the protest and bragging about how your school is the best.

Where were you?

As a Hilltopper, I was, more than proud to cover such an event in Howard's history. We stood outside the administration building not only as journalists, but as students. We want to thank the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) for standing up for what is right and for helping to bring serious issues to the forefront, particularly in the situation regarding our First Amendment rights which I'm sure you can guess are most important for us in the newsroom.

For everyone, integrity should be a top priority. Without it, your word is not credible, nor will you be well-received among your peers. Moreover, it is one of the most essential parts of journalism, so *The Hilltop* consistently tries to cover things that reflect such. It is for no other reason than our journalistic integrity that we cover the stories we cover. As the voice of the Howard University student body, we do realize that the stories we cover do reflect each and every one of us. We cover stories that YOU need to know about. Period.

We would like to thank all members of the student body who supported this on Sept. 4. We do this for you all.

Be blessed today.

Tweet of The Week

tweets from some of HU's funniest twits

ALUMNI EDITION

"Shoutout to Howard Univ. NO JUSTICE! NO PEACE!! Let me know if yall need me to come down there yall! I got yall BACK! Let's go!!!"
-Sean "P. Diddy" Combs (@iamdiddy)
10:59 AM Sep 4th from UberTwitter

"#HUprotest fellow Howardites, I Got yall back too!!!"
-Lance Gross (@lancegross)
5:38 PM Sep 4th from web

"HU Love!! HU Love to the students who want change!! HU YOU KNOW!!"
-Omarosa Manigault-Stallworth (@omarosa)
7:12 PM Sep 5th from web

He Said...She Said Viewpoints from Both Sides of the Gender Divide This week's issue: Meeting The Friends

By Jada F. Smith

Before I began writing this week's "She Said," I discussed the topic with a member of the opposite sex. I asked him, "Is introducing a girl to your friends a big deal or does it not mean anything?"

He responded, "It definitely means something. Bust-downs don't meet the homies." Why any guy would ever engage in activity with a "bustdown," I'm not sure. But what I am sure of is meeting his friends is kind of a big deal.

1. If his friends don't like you, than he probably won't like you for much longer. There are some guys who are the exception to this rule, but 8 times out of 10, his friend's opinions of you are more important than his own. Sounds immature, right? Yeah, it is; but we're in college remember?

Guys don't like to admit it, but they care a lot about what their friends think, maybe even more than girls do. And unfortunately, guys opinions are usually formed based on looks.

If a guy I dated was butt ugly, but treated me well, my friends would love him.

If a girl doesn't meet the beauty standards of his boys, then she doesn't stand a chance.

If the boys like her, that's one big "check" in the list of "wifeability."

2. If you've been "seeing each other" for some time and have yet to meet his friends, either he doesn't like you, you're

probably a bustdown, or you're his side-chick. Either way, you deserve better, drop him.

Now that's the easy, obvious stuff. Meeting his friends that are girls, on the other hand, is not so easy.

Female friends of your guy are the toughest critics of the girls he brings around. With his guy friends, all you have to do is smile, be cute, join in on the conversation every now and then, and you're good. Female friends are not as easily impressed.

I've seen a fight break out between my best friend and our guy friend's girlfriend. I've seen rowdy text messages exchanged between the female friend and the girlfriend. I've seen girlfriends get totally ignored by the female friends at dinners and gatherings. I've seen female friends get the guy's mama involved. I've seen tears. Women are scary!

They will critique her clothes, her hair, her makeup skills, her "ghetto" name, even her resume.

Women get on Facebook and dissect what the potential girlfriend puts in her "about me" box. I've even heard things like, "She doesn't have anything in her favorite book section. What, she don't read?"

Yeah, it gets real. The best advice I can give for meeting the female friends, is to be yourself and hope that they're not crazy!

Friendship is an important part in anyone's life. Friends are also crucial when you're dating someone. Personally, if my friends or bros don't approve you will not get very far with me. Girls come and go; friends are forever.

Meeting my friends is a huge step. Not everyone gets there. The only way you get to that point is if you are really special and a cool person. Also you have to be able to connect with friends to not make things awkward.

Just meeting a friend isn't enough. You have to make sure his friends have good opinions of you. When you see them on the yard or in Locke say something.

Don't try too hard though, be yourself. We can see when you are trying too hard! Some of y'all need to fall back. I digress though.

Knowing his friends will do a lot for you. It allows for you to possibly spend more time with him such as group dates, studying in the library or when he's just chilling at

one of his friend's house.

You do not want to make enemies with his friends. You will never win! If you really like someone and want things to continue, avoid an argument with their friends; it will destroy your chance.

The person that has the most important say in who I date is my best female friend.

We've been best friends for eight years! She usually has good judgment of people and who I surround myself with. She can be brutally honest too, which is always a good thing.

Every guy doesn't have a female best friend, it's up to you to figure out who's opinion matters to him.

If you are reading this and the guy you're dating is doing all these things you are in good shape. Just make sure you continue building relationships with his friends. They will start to ask questions when you stop coming around as much.

Want to get the male and female perspective on something? Submit your ideas to meccanisms@gmail.com!

Overheard @ The Mecca

Overheard somewhere on campus...

Girl: "I need to start reading *The Hilltop*; I didn't know it was free!"

Overheard one of your fellow Bison say something crazy? Send it to meccanisms@gmail.com!

The Hilltopic Vault

We at *The Hilltop* have long enjoyed looking back at the archived issues in the office. Here, we've decided to let you all peek into the past by reprinting Hilltopic advertisements that actually appear in vintage issues of *The Hilltop*.

"Moni-Love, don't let that mouse get the best of you. Fight for your territory."

Originally appeared as a Hilltopic advertisement on September 21, 1990.

"Colin Thompson: I will have you!"

Originally appeared as a Hilltopic advertisement on September 23, 1994

"Kappas...off me! Omegas...off me! Sima's...#@^* off me! Stop sweating the real kinds of stepping. You know it's a black and gold thing."

Originally appeared as a Hilltopic advertisement on November 16, 1990

"Stacy B., You need to stop changin' that answering maching message. You ain't cute..."

Originally appeared as a Hilltopic advertisement on September 20, 1994

20 Questions

...because we know you were wondering the same thing.

1. Did Gibbs really try to censor *The Hilltop*? PAUSE.
2. How many people heard Jay-Z's "The Blueprint 3" before Monday?
3. How many people ReTweeted P. Diddy after he shouted out HU on Friday?
4. Why was *The Hilltop* in the same row as the greek organizations at the Organizational Fair?
5. And why did that make everybody scared to walk up to our table?
6. Why were some Greeks strolling during the protest?
7. How many people thought PBM was a greek-letter organization
8. Why didn't you wear black on Friday?
9. The protest is over, now what?
10. How come the C-Store in Blackburn never has any cold drinks?
11. Did you know last week was HBCU week?
12. How many people skipped President Obama's healthcare speech to see 50 Cent in Cramtom?
13. Who has the best Twitter screen name?
14. Will Twitter ever get played out like Facebook?
15. Why does the hot water get shut off every year in The Towers?
16. Have you watched fellow bison Bianca Richardson on this season of "America's Next Top Model"?
17. Did you know that this is the third Howard Student to be on the show?
18. How come UTC isn't poppin' anymore?
19. When was the last time you went to a party in UTC?
20. Does it have anything to do with the "taser incident" that happened two years ago?

Compiled by The Hilltop Staff

America's Next Top Model Spotlights HU Student

BY CIERRA JONES
Life & Style Editor

Bianca Richardson is a current senior Public Relations major, Fashion minor from Columbia, SC here at Howard University. Richardson will be a contestant on the latest cycle of America's Next Top Model which premiered last night, and will air every Wednesday at 8p.m. Here's what Richardson had to say to *The Hilltop*.

TH: What did this opportunity mean to you (especially with the height requirement this cycle)?

BR: It opens up the market for hidden talent.

TH: How do you think being on ANTM will help your career?

BR: It's great exposure and a networking opportunity.

TH: Do you think this cycle was treated differently because of height?

BR: There will be more controversy. Ratings will go up because of there's a new element with the height change.

TH: Did being on the show effect your schooling? Did you take a semester off?

BR: Not at all, I've been blessed to have some of the most amazing professors ever, they understand, they have worked with me.

I have had to make a couple of sacrifices such as getting a lower grade than I wanted or incompletes to finish, but it was well worth it. I know and they know what type of person and student I am. They know my ethics, customs and my nature. They know this is just a decision for my future. That's how I



Naya Scarbrough - Editorials & Perspectives

Junior public relations major Bianca Richardson is the newest Howard University student to grace the runway on the new season of America's Next Top Model, which premiered last night.

look at it. What I do today affects [me] years from now.

TH: Did you speak with HU student Ambreal from a previous cycle? If so did she offer any advice and what was it?

BR: I have spoken to Ambreal and Camille recently because everyone knows of my involvement due to the press and media. In the beginning (before/during taping), no because of confidentiality agreements.

TH: Are you involved in any activities or clubs on campus or in the DC community?

BR: DC Fashion Week, Corjor International/Ean Williams), Dekka Fam (Luciana Tiktin), NSS (National Society of Soul), GWFFC (Christine Brooks Cropper) to name a few, On Campus (ASA and Homecoming Fashion Shows).

TH: What was the most memorable moment of being on ANTM?

BR: Most memorable would be panels....I like constructive criticism.

TH: How is the real Tyra Banks and the other judges as well?

BR: She is attentive

TH: What did you learn about yourself as well modeling while being on the show?

BR: Nothing that I didn't already know.

TH: Will you be in DC Fashion Week and/or the HU Homecoming fashion show?

BR: Maybe, stay tuned.

TH: What do you plan on doing post-graduation?

BR: Modeling, future (fashion public relations and image consulting, creative director, own a chain of upscale shoe boutiques)

Twitter Wants to Know 'What Are You Doing?'

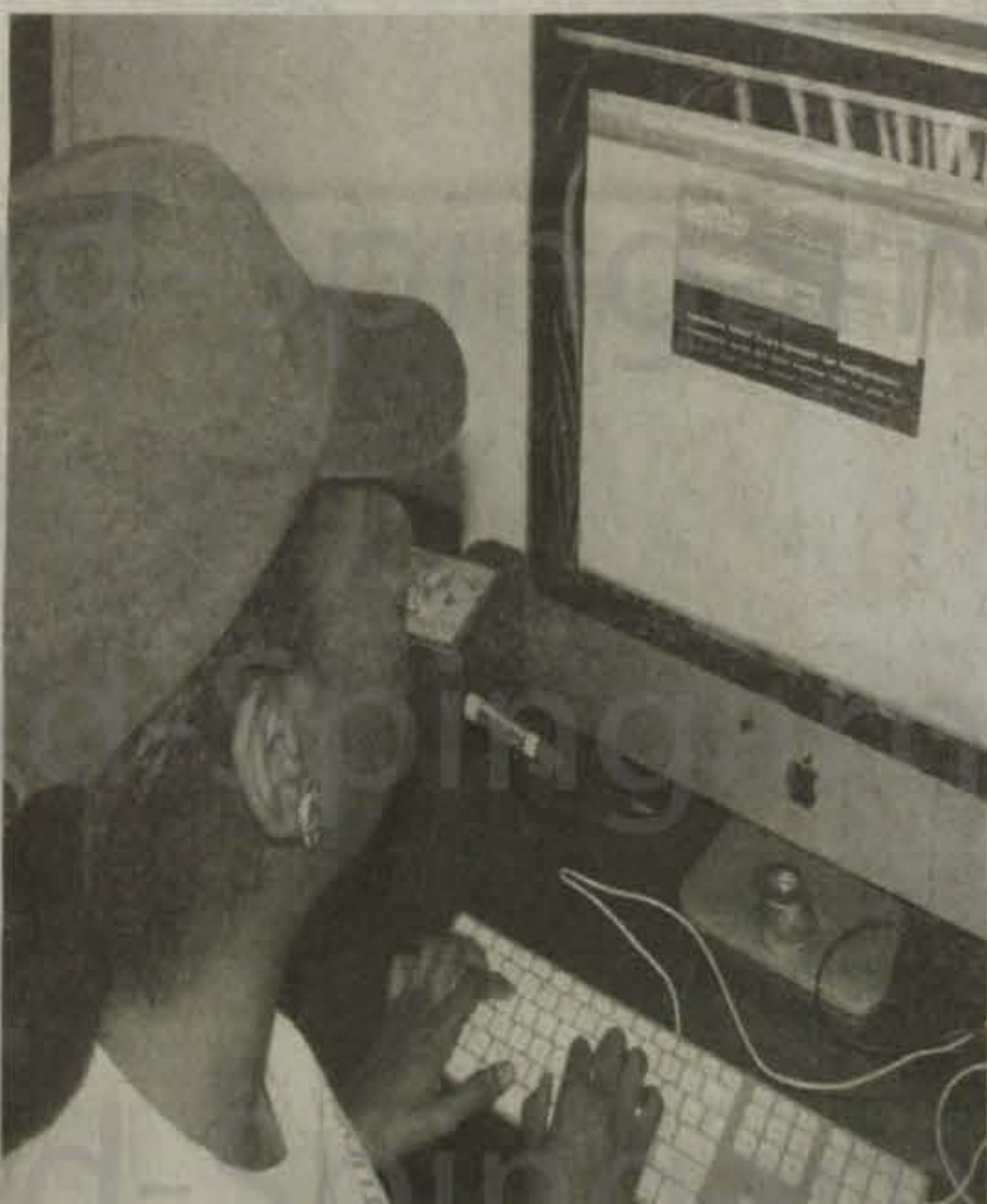


Photo Courtesy of Naya Scarbrough

Social networking web site, Twitter, is rapidly growing among users who want to be connected to friends, or even to famous celebrities.

BY MAYA RHODAN
Staff Writer

"What are you doing?" This simple, direct question is the foundation of the social networking site that has been giving Facebook and MySpace serious competition over the past year: Twitter. Twitter has revolutionized the idea of staying connected to friends, colleagues, celebrities, and the news, among other things, by condensing the amount of information shared

between users to a simple answer to one question.

"I like Twitter because [it] is overall less evasive than other social network sites where the profile is the bulk of and arguably one of the most important parts of your page," said George Gary, a senior public relations major. "With Twitter, your profile and everything is irrelevant; they only care about the answer to the recurring Twitter question. It also allows you to interact with various celebrities - I've gotten a few responses myself."

Over the past year, Twitter has gotten more play than a new toy on Christmas; everyone from Larry King and Oprah to Barack Obama and Wale has an account, and makes good use of it. However, as Twitter grows in popularity, is it doomed to be overridden with young people causing drama and misusing the site?

"People have started to get a little carried away with the things they mention on Twitter," said Kimaya McCargo, a sophomore marketing major. McCargo uses the social networking site so much she considers herself "addicted"; she uses it mainly to keep connected with friends she doesn't see on a regular basis. "But, it's funny to me; I'm always entertained by it."

It happens to the best of the social network sites; Facebook fights between Nickelodeon actress Keke Palmer and her-would-be-beau's girlfriend, teenage girls being wooed by older men on MySpace and lured to foreign countries to be forced into marriage, one can't help but wonder when the gloves are going to come off on Twitter.

"Twitter has gotten me in so much trouble. It's like an ongoing conversation and it gives people a chance to be in your business. Everybody is nosy," said McCargo.

Despite the fact that Twitter updates provide optimum fodder for a potential stalker, they also allow people all over to be connected to world news as well as popular culture. And because users are restricted to a maximum of 140 characters per update, they are forced to get directly to the point - which is good for getting people news and information faster.

"I have been using Twitter for about 9 months now and I

[have been] notified of various world issues through Twitter. It may sound crazy but, I found out Michael Jackson and Ted Kennedy died through Twitter," said Gary.

News updates, a look into the personal lives of celebrities and notification on what your "BFF" is eating for dinner are only some of the ways Twitter can be utilized. Junior psychology major and budding rapper, Joshua Stapleton, who goes by the stage name of J-illa, uses the site for self promotion.

"Twitter allows me to post links to some of my music, get out information on events I'm hosting and stuff like that," said Stapleton. "It spreads to a lot of people so I am able to make new connections, pick up new fans and get feedback on my work."

Since its inception, Twitter has distinguished itself among the other major social networks because of its simplistic style and sophisticated application of add-ons through "trending topics", which allow users to give their opinions of the given subject. But, this is America, and what seems to be inherently popular is merely transient in the grand scheme of things. As BlackPlanet.com and Tagged.com have come and gone, someday Facebook and Twitter will follow suit.

"I like Twitter because I feel like it's an evolution of Facebook and the simplicity of Twitter is what has made it so successful thus far. But, since Twitter has become the new fad, I'm afraid to see what the next big thing will be in the next two to five years," said Gary.

Are you on Twitter?
The Hilltop is!

Follow us: www.twitter.com/thehilltop!

You may even get "Tweet of the Week!"

A Taste of

RHYTHM

The Unweaving

Special Giveaways!

Free Prizes!

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MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2009 @ 7PM

CRAMTON AUDITORIUM

Howard's Scale of Importance for Last Week...



Nicolette McClendon - Cartoonist

HBCUs Get the 'Okie Doke' During HBCU Week

Last week was HBCU week. Who knew about it?

President Obama declared Aug. 31 through Sept. 5, 2009 Historically Black Colleges and Universities week. When he made this declaration, he asked that we observe this week with special programs.

Did you go to a program?

Wait, were there any programs?

Let's not count the protest, although that can be looked at as an activity that paid homage to those who have attended Howard and who will one day attend Howard, but I'm sure it's not what he had in mind.

There were no events on the university calendar that recognized or observed the special week. *The Hilltop's* back page (Hilltopics) was not loaded with commemorative events to partake in during the evenings. Those daily e-mails titled "What's New at Howard" didn't talk about it. Was it not important?

Well, to much of the mass media, it wasn't important. No major news networks reported this informa-

tion. If you weren't already looking for it, you probably weren't going to find it.

The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities Conference was held last Monday. It seems that an event such as this would be of great interest to the

about positivity amid the crises that many HBCUs are facing.

Although *The Hilltop* did cover a story on HBCU Week, we do take full responsibility for not giving the week the proper acknowledgment that we could have given.

HBCUs are successful institutions. According to ThinkHBCU.org, HBCUs have produced more than half of all black professionals; of the 10 colleges that graduate most of the black students who go on to earn Ph.D.s, nine of them are HBCUs.

Both Spelman College and Bennett College produce more black, female graduates who go on to earn doctorates in all science fields than the Seven Sisters combined.

Does that not deserve acknowledgement?

It's sad to know that the recognition that many have fought and worked very hard for went completely unnoticed at a time when it could have lifted a lot of spirits.

Our View:
HBCU week came and went and no one even knew about it. This is not OK.

Howard University administration. In theory, it seems as though a representative, or a few others, would attend such a conference and then spread the word about the week so that the student body could get involved.

More so, this should have made national news. There is no reason for it to have gone under the rug. The economy is in turmoil. HBCUs, like many other institutions, are suffering and this could have brought

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

Wrong Side of the Crib

Charles Metz III



Want to write for *The Hilltop*?

Come grab a story at our next budget meeting.

Sunday 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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The Hilltop Business Office.

THE HILLTOP

2251 Sherman Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20001

(202) 806-4724 (Editorial)

(202) 806-4749 (Business)

hilltoppic@gmail.com

businessoffice@thehilltoponline.com

Now in its 85th 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.

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."

- Edmund Burke

Speak up.

Send your perspectives to
hilltopeditorials@gmail.com

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.**

We accept payment in the form of cashier's checks, money orders, business checks, and major credit cards. **NO CASH**

Any questions? Contact The Hilltop Business Office at 202 806 4749. Email your reservations and artwork material to classifieds@thehilltoponline.com; be sure to specify your run date, background and text colors.

The National Council of Negro Women, Howard Section invites you to our 2009-2010 Membership Drive Week!!! Sept.8-13

Sept.8- The Legacy: What is NCNW/ General Body Meeting 6:30 pm location Douglass 116

Sept. 9- Temptation Island: Round Two School of B. Auditorium 7:00pm

Sept. 10- Meet and Greet (Quad) 6pm

Sept.11- Welcome Back Mix Location TBA

Sept 12 &13- Black Family Reunion Celebration Location: National Mall

Word Up presents...

Stellar Award winning artist Da Truth

September 10th 2009

Howard University

7:45pm

meet on the yard

Top Reasons to Join Heads Up

Co-lead a classroom of 10 to 15 students

Help K through 8th graders become better readers

Use Federal Work Study or volunteer

Develop valuable teaching and leadership skills

Gain firsthand knowledge of an urban school

Form friendships with peers from other universities

Make a difference in the life of a child
Have a year like no other!

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