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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 93, NO. 17

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Tuesday's Notebook**BREAKING NEWS**

"DIRTY DANCING" STAR PATRICK SWAYZE DIED MONDAY EVENING FROM CANCER. HE WAS 57.

CAMPUS

READ UP TO FIND OUT THE PROGRESS OF THE "STUDENTS FIRST" INITIATIVE.

METRO

READ ABOUT THE PENTAGON MEMORIAL, CONSTRUCTED IN DEDICATION TO THOSE WHO DIED SEPT. 11, 2001.

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Students For Health Care Plan To Rally

BY LAUREN GASPARD
Staff Writer

In efforts to spark more interest among college students about President Barack Obama's health care reform plan, Students for Health Care Reform will be hosting a health care rally tonight in Cramton Auditorium.

The rally, based on the details and issues surrounding the plan, will be hosted by student leaders including Howard University Student Association President Bryan Smart and Vice President Jerome Joseph, and Undergraduate Trustee Nnamdi Anozie. White House representatives, in addition to newly elected Congresswoman Donna Edwards of the Fourth District of Maryland and the House of Representatives, are also expected to attend.

The rally is in support of the "Any Other Options?" campaign, started by a group of Howard University students who saw a void in the interest about the health care reform topic among a younger demographic.

Craig Allen, a Howard alumnus and the volunteer coordinator for Students for Health Care Reform, said he believes the younger generation played a huge part in the election of Obama.

"Students for Health Care feel that health care in America should be a right and not a commodity," Allen said.

Some of the primary benefits highlighted are lower drug costs and preventive care for better health.

"Any Other Options?" also highlights that health care reform is most needed within the black community. Allen said Howard students should be at the forefront of the campaign, considering the number of ailments, such as heart disease and diabetes, in the black community.

"This rally is important in order to educate one another about the issues of health care, not only for people of color, but for people in general," Smart said. "We want students to come, speak out and get all of their questions answered."

HU Homecoming Unveiled

Rhythm releases a star-studded line-up for October's festivities



Vice Chair Brittney Martin stands between event coordinators Kai Lawson and Kirsten Lewis at Monday's event.

BY CAMILLE AUGUSTIN
Staff Writer

Hundreds of students arrived at Cramton Auditorium on Monday evening with one question in mind: Who is coming to Howard Homecoming 2009?

The event, "A Taste of Rhythm," was the formal celebrity unveiling to the public.

"I am really excited; it was a packed house, and I am happy with the unveiling because it has never been done before at Cramton Auditorium," said Tyler Pride, a senior political science major and chair of the 2009 Homecoming Committee. "I want people to know that Homecoming is not over until the last and final beat of the last event."

Special giveaways, prizes and performances were on the agenda for Monday's event, which started at 7 p.m.

To start the show, Melech Thomas, a senior speech and applied communications major and Mr. Howard, told the crowd to bow their heads for a moment of prayer. The crowd applauded as Thomas said we should not glorify music that calls women a "B," or "H," or "S," unless they



Homecoming Chair Tyler Pride, along with coordinators Charles Bell and Nelson Gillum helped to host the unveiling.

are calling them "beautiful, holy or sophisticated."

From the beat of a single African drum to the applause and cheering of the audience, RHYTHM filled Cramton Auditorium with beats that rocked people's seats.

"I definitely want to go to the fashion show and the R&B concert," said Shannon Paul-Pascal, a freshman sociology major

after attending the event.

Mini videos showcased the Gospel show, infamous Step show, R&B concert, the Comedy Show and the poetry cipher with dates and performances following after.

"I thought it was a nice event," said Ayisha Mapp, a senior political science major and

> See **UNVEIL**, page 3

New Credit Laws Reduce Pressure for Students

BY EVAN HOLLIS
Campus Editor

Due to the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure (CARD) Act of 2009, life with credit cards could become a lot easier for the average college student.

The purpose of the legislation, originally signed into law by President Barack Obama this past May, is to improve consumer disclosures and end some inadequate practices within the credit card industry. Many of the new rules do not go into effect until February 2010.

One of the Credit CARD Act rules that recently went into effect is consumer notification. Consumers will now receive a 45-day notice, as opposed to the previous 15-day notice, before contract changes take effect. Consumers also have more time to make payments. Statements must be sent at least 21 days before a payment is due, as opposed to the previous 14-day notice. The Credit CARD Act includes retroactive rate increases as well.

"I bet some people won't like the new initiative because of its possible effects on the economy," said Talisa McBean, a senior psychology major. "It sounds really beneficial to students and first-time credit holders, though."

The law also states that rates cannot be raised within the first year of issuance and promotional rates must last at least six months. Issuers, however, can raise rates at any time, for any reason, on new balances with a 45-day notice. Senior mathematics major, Roland Carter, cancelled his credit card due to exorbitant interest rates.

"When I first got the card, interest rates were really low and manageable," Carter said. "In a short period of time though, they ballooned and I was paying about \$100 just in interest fees."

Among the new rules that are now in effect, there are more rules that will go into effect next year. Starting next year, issuers will not be able to charge more than one over-limit fee per billing cycle. The new Act will also end double-cycle billing.

In addition, those under 21 will not be approved for credit unless they can prove independent means of income with a co-signer who is at least 21 years of age. Carter said he thinks the age restriction is a good idea.

He said many students ruin their credit before they are of age. He said, "This will force new credit card holders to fully understand what they're getting into."

"It's a smart idea to make it difficult for young adults to receive a credit card because they do not fully understand how to handle a credit card so they put themselves into debt at an early age," said Connie Jones, a professional medical biller. "I know most of the debt I received in my life was from when I was a young adult."

Starting next year, the new act will also prohibit gift cards from expiring for at least five years.

HUSA Reschedules, Meets With Ribeau



HUSA President Bryan Smart and Vice President Jerome Joseph met with President Ribeau to discuss student issues.

BY VICTORIA FORTUNE
Staff Writer

HUSA president, Bryan Smart, and Vice President Jerome Joseph sat down with President Ribeau last Thursday to express the student body concerns with the various issues facing Howard. The dialogue between both HUSA and President Ribeau is the first since the protest that took place on Sept. 4, 2009.

From 24-hour library hours to the Howard University budget, HUSA and President Ribeau laid it all out on the table.

According to Joseph, they began the meeting by going down a list of demands followed by a discussion of where to go from here.

A big concern of the students is the library service. A

study was proposed to have the libraries remain open for 24 hours on a one-week trial. Depending on the volume of students that use the facility, a decision will be made.

The libraries are not the only facilities that were mentioned. "We're going to have a list of which buildings are in dire need of repairs and updates. We understand that there are students at Howard with disabilities, and we're going to try to do what it takes to make the essential repairs to accommodate them," Joseph said.

In regards to facilities and technology, President Ribeau released a statement on Wednesday stating, "The university over the last five years has made significant investments to ensure its compliance with the Americans with Disabilities

> See **HUSA**, page 3

Students Question if They Are Put First

BY CAMILLE AUGUSTIN
Staff Writer

Howard students that question if they are really put "first" in the universities' plans are starting to take action to get answers.

In a previous column in *The Hilltop*, Howard University Student Association (HUSA) vice president, Jerome Joseph, said that President Sidney A. Ribeau's agenda for last year was "students first." Joseph said, "However, historically every Howard University president who has claimed 'students first' has been usurped out of the position by students."

Joseph later said that there is a conflict in ideology between Ribeau's students first initiative and some administration that is still here from Swygert's term. "You have someone who is about students first, yet there are still people in the administration who failed to show this," said Joseph. "Their philosophy is different."

Previous president, H. Patrick Swygert, decided to step down at the end of the 2008 academic

year after a 13-year term. Under his administration, students failed to see improvements in academic buildings, such as elevators not functioning and certain routes to classes not being able to be used.

Some of these problems still plague students today, such as ramps not being up to par, and some disability entrances not functioning.

"I think the administration should show that they care more about students and really listen to students' concerns. They should have discussions with students and let students help them make decisions," said Tony Marble, a junior business management major. "It makes no sense that students cannot get housing and that some housing conditions are terrible. I think the Residence Life and money management people should be changed completely."

Marble also said that Ribeau is doing the best he can at this time. "I think he will adhere to the students because I really think he cares about us, but I think others in the administration really don't,"

Marble said.

Joseph also said, "In a perfect world when students are first, all staff from top to bottom are friendly and all the decisions that are made are made with the best interest of the students in mind."

Some students feel that other ways students can be put first are through remodeling and renovations. "Repair dorms, change the Financial Aid process, and have friendlier staff," said Ebony Munn, junior journalism major.

The Students First Campaign (SFC) started on January 5, 2009. Phase 1 of the campaign included three projects. The first project is the introduction and integration of SFC into the institutional framework. Secondly, the assessment and analysis of the critical focus group for process improvement. Lastly, survey and performance assessment of customer service training for staff.

The campaign is working on improving communication with the campus. This will be done by improving the Web site, developing an information kiosk in the

Administration building, and consolidating and publishing academic policies online. The campaign also wants to create a Facebook group that sends students messages alerting and updating students. This will increase the speed of student access to needed information.

According to previous undergraduate trustee, Victoria Kirby, changes are being implemented now. Some of these changes are plans to have an electronic record that will allow administration not to lose students' information. Another changes include moving financial aid information to an online system and a plan for capital investment.

"Students will see a lot of change throughout the semester," said Kirby, now Graduate Assistant in the president's office. "With the plan for capital investment, the University will be able to build new buildings, more freshman dorms, etc.," said Kirby.

Kirby continued to say that administration is

implementing most of the goals and ideas from phase one of Ribeau's "Students First" initiative. "A lot of the ideas that were in phase one of the initiative are in the process of being implemented on campus," said Kirby. "I am excited to see that some of the promises Ribeau stated are coming to light and not just empty promises."

Another improvement is an automated imaging system with electronic records. This is to avoid misfiling, requests to applicants, and faster access to records.



Photo Courtesy of Victoria Kirby

Kirby has been a part of the Students First campaign for two years.



The School of 'C' Advance Student Council chose not to participate.

Councils Advance

BY CAMILLE AUGUSTIN
Staff Writer

This year, student councils have been given the "Green Light" to "Advance" Howard's Family "Reunion" atmosphere.

The College of Arts and Sciences Student Council (ASSC), School of Communications Council and School of Business Student Council have the similar goal of ensuring that they are visible to their peers.

All the councils have a series of events planned to get students involved in their school. ASSC has a mentor/mentee program, which pairs freshman and transfer students with upperclassmen.

"Through the mentor/mentee program, new students will be able find their way around COAS in terms of what classes to take and transitioning into Howard," said Dorien Blythers, COAS president.

In an effort to get students' concerns vocalized, ASSC was involved in the student protest earlier this month. Blythers said that the demand on the list dealing with the American Disability Act was very important to not only the university as a whole, but also to COAS.

"Students have come to me with issues of this matter, like the ramp is not up to par or some of the disability entrances do not work," Blythers said.

School of Business Student Council Executive president, Jewel Burks, was also involved with set-

ting the demands of the protest with the proposed use of Google applications.

"We are changing the image of student council in the School of Business and re-earning the respect of faculty along the way. We are hoping to engage students, and make everyone accountable for the success of the school," Burks said. "I will continue to encourage students to stand up for what they believe in, and not accept the mediocrity that Howard offers us as it relates to financial aid, technology and the other issues raised in the demands presented on Friday."

Although the School of Communications Student Council did not support the protest, Executive President Rodney Hawkins said that they will continue to support the students.

"I definitely support students coming together for a cause and getting our voices heard," Hawkins said.

To help express that voice, the School of Communications Student Council has events planned to inform students on what news publications such as newspapers, online publications are looking for in applicants.

Outside of Howard, the communications council is working to advocate community service. "We want to show ways that we give back to the community," Hawkins said.

An informational session will also be held for students to understand the accreditation process that the school will have.

A Look in the Life of a Chapel Assistant: Alexandria Croom

BY VICTORIA FORTUNE
Staff Writer

Whether they are seen distributing programs before chapel begins or across the country volunteering their services at an alternative spring break, the chapel assistants of the Howard University Rankin Chapel are on the move.

The Hilltop sits down with sophomore, Alexandria Croom, as she informs us on her continuous journey as a chapel assistant.

Hilltop: Why did you decide to become a chapel assistant?

Alexandria Croom: I came to Howard in the summer of 2008 and one of the facilitators of my program kept telling me about chapel assistants and how I should become one. Then during freshman week I went to the first chapel service as well as Wednesday Night Live (WNL). All the CAs seemed really cool so I decided to check it out.

Hilltop: What does the job of a chapel assistant entail?

Croom: Well, to be honest chapel assistants do a lot more than people realize. We prepare the chapel on Sundays, that includes: putting the programs together, greeting, carrying the robes for the speakers, bringing out the bibles and hymnals for the pulpit and choir, cleaning up Cramton after service, counting the money, recording the service, selling the DVDs from the service and whatever else needs to be done. Besides that, we also do community service. And a lot of the planning for other religious life events such as ASB and WNL use mostly chapel assistants.

Hilltop: I noticed that the chapel assistants share a very great bond with one another. Can you describe that bond?

Croom: We are what every one of our shirts says: We are more than organization; we are a family. Once a chapel assistant always a chapel assistant. Members do not have to pay any fees so anyone can join. I have really developed a close bond with the majority of the chapel assistants. Once I got to know everyone I realized that the Chapel Assistants are really great network of people. Any information could ever need to know I can find out from at least one of the chapel assistants. Becoming a CA has increased my confidence because they really allow me to be my crazy self all the time. I feel that all the friends I've made there are genuine. I could honestly call any of them and ask to borrow \$10 and if they had it I know they would give it to me.

Hilltop: Let's talk about Wednesday Night Live! Every time I attend Wednesday Night Live it's a full house. It is to my understanding you are a co-host of Wednesday Night Live this year, how much work did it take into preparing for your first event of the year?

Croom: Yes, I do host Wednesday Night Live this year along with Trey. There are so many people that work to make WNL a success: the talent coordinator, to the PR team, to the skit writer, to the actors, to the praise team, and all of religious life. We have to work really hard on PR because we are trying to get more student talent in the show this year. However, I feel that the hardest work is in preparing spiritually to host WNL. We really want WNL to be a powerful ministry that changes

people's lives. I realize that as one of the host people are really going to look to me to be a positive example around campus. So, right now I am just trying to live an a way that says, "Yes, I am a Christian, but I am also human so you can talk to me about anything because God is relevant to every person in every situation."

Hilltop: Now, for those who don't know, chapel is a great place to hear some of the most unapologetic, inspirational speakers. As a chapel assistant I know that you have gotten to meet a number of them. Name some of the people you've gotten a chance to meet as a chapel assistant.

Croom: Wow, I have met so many of the chapel speakers including: Cornel West, Rev. Jeremiah Wright, Otis Moss, Father Michael Pfleger, and Rev. Frederick Haynes to say the least. Besides the chapel speakers I also have had the privilege to get to know the Dean of Religious Life, the University Chaplains, the chapel staff, and two graduate assistants. All of them have offered their time and wisdom to me. I know that if I ever needed someone to talk to I could get to the chapel or to the Carnegie Building and find someone to help me.



Photo Courtesy of Alexandria Croom

Croom has been a CA for two years.

The 'Blueprint' Mapped Out



Photo Courtesy of Rodney Hawkins

The John H. Johnson School of Communications Advance Student Council held their first Town Hall meeting of the fall semester, which was also their first event of School of 'C' week. The meeting allowed students to discuss their problems and concerns with various deans and professors in the School of 'C.'



Green Tip #7

Begin recycling in your room and stop throwing things on the ground. Once we have bins, recycle your collected material!

School of 'C' Week: 'The Blueprint'

Today: Ivory Tower Panel, Locke Hall, Rm. 105, 7 p.m.

Wednesday 9/15: Blue & Gold Day, Main Campus

Thursday 9/16: Mentor/Mentee Meet & Greet, Drew Hall Lounge, 7 p.m.

Friday 9/17: Night Out With Advance, C.B Powell Building, 6 p.m.

Saturday 9/18: Campus Clean-Up & BBQ, C.B. Powell, 11 a.m.

President Ribeau, HUSA Speak at Last

Continued from FRONT, HUSA

Act."

Campus wide wireless connection was another topic of discussion. "As far as the wireless goes we're going to look at four different options about partnering with wireless companies," Joseph said.

Smart and Joseph are planning a town hall meeting among the Howard student body and President Ribeau. Before the town hall takes place however,

HUSA will meet with the Board of Trustees Sept. 25, 2009, in order to make sure that all of their demands are being met.

"The students are frustrated. We want them to know that we're dedicated to making Howard University a better place," Joseph said.

As the students continue to wait for answers, the HUSA staff will continue to strive for assuring that the proper changes are being made for the betterment of this university.

Students Feel the 'Rhythm' of HU

Musiq Soulchild, Lance Gross just two names on the celebrity guest list

Continued from FRONT, UNVEIL

member of the Howard University Community Choir who also performed. "I like the way they did this event, as opposed to previous years that have just unveiled Homecoming to the Howard students."

Among the performers unveiled, Musiq Soulchild will headline the R&B concert; Kurt Carr will be performing at the Gospel Show and Howard alumnus Lance Gross from "Tyler Perry's House of Payne" and Pooch Hall from the television show "The

Game" will be volunteers for the Celebrity Basketball game. As usual, the performers for Yardfest were not revealed, but left up to students to figure out who in the "top 5" on the music charts will be in attendance.

"In terms of them having acts and contests as opposed to them just pulling a cloth adds to the whole feel and environment," said Jared Wilson, a junior business management major. "It got everyone excited for Homecoming."

Junior physical therapy major, Michael Oyewole, said

he was impressed with the visual aids, such as the videos that depicted each Homecoming event in a creative atmosphere, and the crowd's participation was interactive with the theme of the event, RHYTHM: The Pulse of the People.

"I feel they advertised Homecoming really well," Oyewole said. "The turnout was bigger than I expected."

Students left RHYTHM on a high note and now are set for Homecoming.

Walt Disney Acquires Marvel for Billions

Joining the Mickey Mouse Club

Walt Disney Co. agreed to buy Marvel Entertainment, Inc. for \$4 billion in cash and stock. Under the deal, Disney will acquire all 1,000 Marvel characters.

Marvel	Merging two companies	Disney
New York	Headquarters	Burbank, Calif.
Ike Perlmutter	CEO	Robert Iger
300	Employees	180,000
\$675.2 million	2008 sales	\$37.8 billion

Marvel's Perlmutter will continue to oversee company. Deal has been approved by both boards, will require antitrust and shareholder approval.

The big screen

Selection of movies based on Marvel characters:

- 1998 "Blade"
- 2000 "X-Men"
- 2002 "Spider-Man"
- 2003 "The Hulk"
- 2004 "Spider-Man 2"
- 2005 "Fantastic Four"
- 2006 "X-Men: The Last Stand"
- 2007 "Spider-Man 3"
- 2008 "Iron Man"
- 2009 "X-Men Origins: Wolverine"

Money making movies

Marvel currently has deals with other movie studios. Disney will honor these deals.

- Fourth "Spider-Man" movie to be released 2011 by Columbia Pictures
- Two more "X-Men" movies due in 2011 by 20th Century Fox
- Second "Iron Man" installment due out next year by Paramount

Marvel - Disney by MCT

The Walt Disney Co. purchased comic book giant Marvel, which will give characters such as Spider Man and X-Men a new home.

BY VICTORIA FORTUNE
Staff Writer

Last week, the Walt Disney Company acquired Marvel Entertainment, Inc. for an estimated \$4 billion.

The deal includes Disney's acquisition of Marvel's portfolio of more than 5,000 characters such as Spider Man, X-Men, Iron Man, Fantastic Four and The Incredible Hulk.

"This transaction combines

Marvel's strong global brand and world-renowned library of characters including Iron Man, Spider-Man, X-Men, Captain America, Fantastic Four and Thor with Disney's creative skills, unparalleled global portfolio of entertainment properties, and a business structure that maximizes the value of creative properties across multiple platforms and territories," said Robert A. Iger, president and chief executive officer of The Walt Disney Company, in a recent press release.

"This is an unparalleled opportunity for Marvel to build upon its vibrant brand and character properties by accessing Disney's tremendous global organization and infrastructure around the world," said Ike Perlmutter, Marvel's chief executive officer.

Though Disney has ownership of Marvel, Perlmutter will oversee Marvel's properties, and will work directly with Disney's global lines of business to build and further integrate Marvel's properties.

Disney plans to integrate Marvel characters into their theme

parks, cable channels and consumer products. Disney also plans to use the newly acquired Marvel characters to gain a hold on male children, while franchises such as Hannah Montana continue to remain popular with female children.

The acquisition of Marvel also makes Disney a major force in the movie industry. Disney, who acquired Pixar for \$7.6 billion in 2006, is now partners with Paramount Pictures, Sony Pictures Entertainment and 20th Century Fox, all of which have long-term deals to make or distribute movies based on superhero characters.

Though the Walt Disney Company has stated that they would honor previous contract agreements, such as Paramount's agreement to distribute five Marvel films, they have made clear that their goal is to bring Marvel's movies in-house.

Though representatives at Disney and Marvel are confident about the new deal, some feel the deal is not without risk. Questions include whether Marvel's lesser-known characters can be effectively

groomed into stars and to what degree the most valuable assets, such as Spider Man and X-Men, have weakened in box office power.

In addition, Marvel fans have voiced their disapproval of the new deal, fearing Disney will ruin Marvel's catalog by making Marvel characters "too child friendly."

"Disney has a reputation of keeping every thing PG & below. This is not going to work well for Marvel. In order to do Spider Man, X-Men, The Hulk and other Marvel series justice; you can't dumb them down and make them appropriate for 5 year olds," said Alex Barnes, a sophomore Film major. "Hopefully, Disney will surprise everyone and do the Marvel universe justice."

Even with such concerns, there is no denying that both businesses are very successful and because of that, representatives from both parties are excited for the deal.

"This is an unparalleled opportunity for Marvel. Disney is the perfect home," Perlmutter said.

SKIP LUNCH FEED A BUNCH

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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CapitalAreaFoodBank.org
or call (202) 526-5344

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\$10 PROVIDES 30 MEALS

\$5 PROVIDES 15 MEALS

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20
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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 2.3 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.

New Product Analyzes Chat Conversations

BY CHRISTINA DOWNS
Contributing Writer

Typically when students attend college, their parents are unable to monitor every action they take, especially on their computers. Sentry Parental Control Software (SPCS) helps parents monitor their children's online activity. Echometrix, Sentry's parent company, recently launched a product that studies online chat and networking activity for marketing purposes.

On June 29, 2009, the company announced the launch of its new product, Pulse.

Designed for the benefit of teen marketing companies, Pulse gathers "digital content and analyzes the sentiment in real time."

That information is collected in aggregate form and sold to companies to make marketing strategies.

With the help of a custom dictionary that specializes in "weblish," language created specifically for Internet use (OMG, lol, lmao, etc.), Pulse is able to gather teens' opinions on certain products made by brands like Nike, Adidas and Apple, Inc. by organizing what is said in such conversations.

The product also predicted the upset of the 2009 season of American Idol.

"SPCS is a replicate of what Mom and Dad could see if they were sitting over their child's shoulder all day," CEO of Echometrix, the company affiliated with Sentry Parental Control Software, Jeffrey Greene said.

Because the information is presented in aggregate form, it is not interfering with the individual's safety says Greene.

"I can't know their social security number, address, phone number, gender, anything like that. All I know is their screen name," Greene said. "I guess someone

could put their full name, address and phone number as their screen name, but it's very rare."

However, for some, the software's access to personal conversations feels like an invasion of privacy.

"That's really creepy. I don't want people looking at all of my information," sophomore public relations major Taylor Johnson said.

Many adolescents, like Johnson, disagree with the ethics of the software. In contrast, Greene explained that once the information is posted on the Internet, it is no longer private.

"Anybody who uses the Internet today who foolishly believes that information is private does not pay attention to when you log onto anything... Google e-mail accounts, Facebook accounts, you name it," Greene said. "Because all those networks say that, you have to know that everything open to the Internet is out there

for the public to see."

"Once it's out there, it's a free-for-all. Once you ring the bell you can't un-ring it."

Freshman biology major Morgan Floyd sees the benefits in the product, but remains hesitant about its intentions.

"I see the benefits of that for safety purposes, kids have access [to the Internet] at such a young age, and they don't always know what's going on," Floyd said. "For a parent I can see how that would be very useful, but I still feel like their needs to be some consent."

SPCS products are designed to be purchased by parents and installed in their child's computer to monitor their activity.

Depending on the parents' preferences with privacy, the software then sends alerts via cell phone, e-mail or an option that allows parents to see their child's activity on their personal computer monitor.

Sentry can be installed under two modes, one where the child is aware of the installation and the other, known as "stealth mode," where the child is unaware that the product has been installed.

"It sees everything. There's nothing that child can do that we can't see," Greene said.

Such activity includes Internet conversations on chatting outlets through Facebook, Twitter and Instant Messaging.

If an action, such as profanity or engaging in pornographic content, is deemed "inappropriate" through the system, then the parents are alerted.

The purpose, Greene said, is to allow Mom and Dad to make sure their kid is street smart on the web. Sentry's software helps parents point out where their child should go and should not go. "It's like training wheels," Greene said.

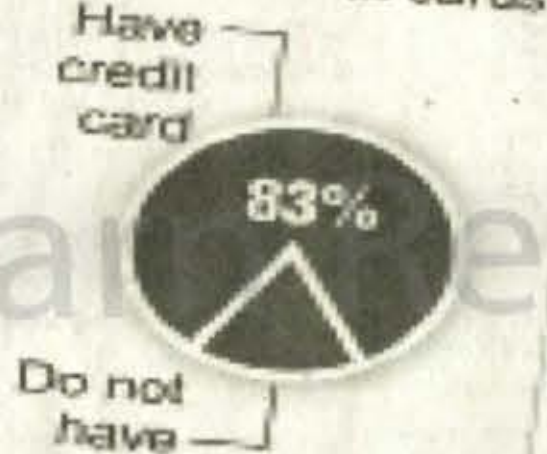
College credit

Tips for college students on choosing and using credit cards:

- **Look for a card** with no or low annual fees; seemingly attractive rewards and frequent flier cards often have high fees
- **Find a card** with a low interest rate, but be wary of no- or low-rate introductory offers; note when, how much the rate will rise
- **Think of your card as cash;** do not buy things you cannot afford so you can avoid carrying a balance
- **Pay your bill on time;** even one late payment can damage your credit rating
- **Read your statement** carefully; call the company if you have questions

Personal Finance

The numbers
Percentage of U.S. undergraduates with cards



© 2008 MCT
Source: Sallie Mae
Graphic: Pat Carr

According to the Sallie Mae Web site, 84 percent of undergraduates have at least one credit card, up from 76 percent in 2004.

On average, students have 4.6 credit cards, and half of college students had four or more cards.

The average balance grew to \$3,173, which is higher than in any of the previous studies.

Source: www.salliemae.com

got rhythm?

Howard University Homecoming 2009

RHYTHM: THE PULSE OF THE PEOPLE

tickets go on sale September 15th for all events.
purchase at your nearest ticketmaster booth or visit www.bisonhomecoming.com

Remembering Those Lost at the Pentagon



Aliese Polk - Contributing Writer

The Pentagon Memorial is dedicated to the lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001. It is open to the public 24 hours, seven days a week, free of charge. Instead of official tours, visitors are free to have a personal experience.

BY ALIESE POLK
Contributing Writer

On an overcast and somber day in Washington, D.C., the Pentagon Memorial was an appropriate and tranquil place for people to gather to honor those who lost their lives in the 9/11 terrorist attacks eight years ago.

The Memorial is on the west side of the Pentagon just feet away from where American Airlines flight 77 crashed into the building, killing 59 passengers and 125 people.

Relatives, friends, colleagues and strangers drenched the 184 benches in flowers, flags and mementos. Each bench represents each life that was lost. They are made of limestone from debris of

the building and are positioned over a reflecting pool.

The benches are arranged so that visitors must read the names of the victims while facing in the same direction as the person was when they died; if they were inside the building, their bench faces toward the Pentagon, and if they were aboard, it faces toward the direction the plane was coming from. They are aligned in chronological order of birth date and the height of each bench corresponds to their age; the youngest was 3 years old, and the oldest, 71.

"They were so young. They barely lived their lives," said Jessica Richardson, a Howard University student who visited the Memorial for the first time. She said she was surprised at how serene and befit-

ting the Memorial was.

"It is simple, yet artistic and very meaningful," Richardson said.

Gazing out over the courtyard, she was in awe at how surreal everything seemed.

"That was a day that will forever be marked in history," she said. "It made everybody more aware that in a snap of a finger everything could change, forever."

President Barack Obama attended the event and placed a wreath at the entrance of the Memorial courtyard. He proclaimed the day First National Day of Service and Remembrance. For many, it was their first time seeing the permanent memorial, which opened a year ago.

Terrance Stevenson, a student from University of Memphis,

is staying in D.C. for the semester. He said he wanted to come to honor the deceased and view a landmark that was such a significant part of history.

Stevenson is double majoring in international studies and political science. He said that the 9/11 attacks and the United States' engagement in international conflict were factors influencing his choice of study.

"It propelled me into international studies to learn from the past to improve the future," Stevenson said. "The event changed every aspect of our lives."

Twenty-year-old Cesar Sandoval was only in the seventh grade when the attacks occurred, but he, like many others said that day will forever be ingrained in his head. His middle school was about five minutes away from the Pentagon and a lot of his classmates had parents who worked in the building. He also recalled their fear and pain when they heard the Pentagon had been hit and loved ones lost their lives.

That was one of the reasons he came. He always had an interest, but more so, he felt obligated to pay his respect. Sandoval said he sympathizes with those who were and still are in pain.

"It makes me thankful that I am still breathing," Sandoval said. "And thankful that at least my parents are still here. It's a beautiful reminder of the people we lost."

Metro Briefs

Man Commits Suicide at Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro Station

On Sunday morning, a man stood in front of an incoming Red Line train at Gallery Place-Chinatown station headed towards Shady Grove. Preliminary reports suggest that the man's death was an act of suicide.

As the investigation ensued, there were major delays on the Red Line. Gallery Place-Chinatown was closed for Red Line service but open to other rail lines. Shuttle service for the Farragut North, Metro Center, Gallery Place and Judiciary Square stops was made available.

Fenty Participates in Fourth Annual Nation's Triathlon

Mayor Adrian Fenty took part in the fourth annual Nation's Triathlon. During Sunday's event, he swam 1.5K in the Potomac River, rode 40K on a bike through downtown and ran 10K around the monuments. Fenty told WTOP radio the triathlon is a good way to show off the city's history and culture.

In the results, Fenty came in 62nd place from a pool of 4,700 other participants. His time was 2 hours, 21 minutes and 18 seconds, although he admits that is not his best time. Previously, he achieved a 2 hour and 17 minute time.

UMD to Crack Down on Party School Image

At the University of Maryland, College Park, campus police have begun to crack down on diminishing the school's image as a "party school." The new initiative will last until Sept. 25 as the back-to-school rush comes to a close.

Police patrol has been expanded, doubling the number of officers patrolling at night. On school nights, about 12 officers are stationed on duty. However, on Thursdays and Fridays, that number increases to more than 30 officers.

Campus police shut down parties, take away alcohol bottles, kegs, discipline and arrest rule breakers.

Va. Trying to Execute Sniper Muhammad by Nov. 9

In 2002, John Allen Muhammad caused havoc in Northern Virginia and the surrounding areas, going on a shooting spree that killed 10 people. Now, Virginia is working to set his execution date to Nov. 9. The month was chosen so that the governor could be present in case he seeks a clemency petition.

Muhammad received the death penalty for killing Dean Meyers. A prosecutor sent the request for the November execution to the Prince William Circuit Court. Jonathan Sheldon, his attorney, plans to appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Muhammad also faces six murder convictions in Montgomery County, Md.

-Compiled by
Genet Lakeu, Metro Editor

Freedom's Sisters: Meet the 20 Women Honored at the Black Family Reunion Luncheon

1. Barbara R. Arnwine

• Civil Rights advocate, community development, education

2. Cora Masters Barry

• Founder, CEO of Recreation Wish List Committee

3. Jamie Foster Brown

• Publisher, owner of Sister 2 Sister magazine

4. Melanie L. Campbell

• CEO of National Coalition on Black Civic Participation

5. Ann R. Gardner

• First assistant to Carter G. Woodson, volunteer

6. Denise Rolark Barnes

• Established the Washington Informer, current publisher

7. Josie A. Bass

• Civil Rights, human rights, founder of the ALVA Consortium

8. Patricia Brown-Daniels

• Evening radio ministry, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner

9. Lavern J. Chatman

• President, CEO of Northern Virginia Urban League

10. Marcia Griffin

• President, founder of HomeFree-USA

11. Donna F. Grigsby

• Washington Area Community Investment Fund

12. Michele S. Jones

• 27-year service in Army, motivational speaker

13. Edwina Saymendy Lloyd

• Founder of Women's Wing Organizations

14. Belinda Pinckney

• Director of Army Diversity Task Force

15. Patrice Sheppard

• Co-founder of Lydia's House

16. Jimmie C. Jackson

• Educator, designed the D.C. Teacher Center

17. Thelma Doris Jones

• Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, youth

18. Ella McCall-Haygan

• From Streets to Skills Social Service, Inc., youth

19. Rene A. Redwood

• Executive director, Glass Ceiling Commission

20. E. Faye Williams

• Chair, National Congress of Black Women

Adams Morgan Day

BY JUSTIN AMEY
Contributing Writer

On a sunny Sunday afternoon, the 31st annual Adams Morgan Day Festival cultural celebration took place across several blocks on 18th Street. Vendors could be seen from Columbia Road to Florida Avenue.

The event was showcased with food, musical performances, clothing and art pieces from a variety of cultures. Latin Rock, Soul, Funk and American Rock groups all graced the two stages. And vendors sold food from Jamaican, Asian and West African cultures.

"Every year, different ethnicities attend the festival. Everybody's sharing culture," said Jerry Bens, a Howard alumnus.

The Peyote Karaoke Cafe brought its business outside and people sang their favorite songs in front of a crowd of onlookers.

Local artists showcased and sold their paintings and sculptures.

Also, the kids fair featured an obstacle course, ring toss, a bouncer and an inflatable slide. There were also face painters and balloon makers. Parents and their children filled the kids fair.

"I liked the activities and going to different places," said Danielle Bens, daughter of Jerry Bens. "My favorite booth was 'play in the sand.' I got to make a bottle with different colors and decorate it with stickers."

The Adams Morgan Day Festival celebrates the cultural diversity of the local D.C. neighborhood. Those in charge of the festival want attendees to know the

positive possibilities if people come together and share their cultures.

"When folks are truly together they are tolerant. It allows you to know tolerance can exist in the world," Bens said.

The local businesses are just as diverse as the vendors that filled 18th Street. The neighborhood has ethnic food from more than 16 cultures including food from Ethiopia, Mexico, Brazil and Vietnam. Most businesses continued their normal operation throughout the festival.

"I liked that there was food and music all over the strip. We want to attract people to the festival and show them the Adams Morgan community," said Edward Granados, a festival official.

Adams Morgan is named after two elementary schools that were segregated until 1955. Thomas P. Morgan Elementary was all black, and John Quincy Adams Elementary was all white. The city formed Adams Morgan Community Council to serve the two schools, and the community. And several surrounding areas were renamed as Adams Morgan.

This celebration of the Adams Morgan neighborhood was first held in 1978. According to the official Web site, 25,000 people attend the festival every year.

Adams Morgan Mainstreet, a non-profit organization, is in charge of organizing the event every year. Companies such as Comcast, Safeway and Bank of America served as sponsors.

"I'll come back as a guest next year," said Granados.



Bree Gent - Staff Photographer

Protesters carried picket signs and voiced their opposition to President Barack Obama's spending plans down Pennsylvania Avenue, headed for the U.S. Capitol. Dissenters of the proposed health care reform complained of the increasing budget deficit.

The thousands of protesters displayed signs reading "Obama=Socialism" and "Keep Government Out of Health Care," according to Bloomberg.com.

Some even held signs portraying Obama's likeness to Hitler's and accused the president of attempting to run the country with socialist ideals.

Saturday's protest was organized by disgruntled citizens of the Tea Party Patriots, the National Taxpayers Union, and various conservative groups. It occurred simultaneously with the Black Family Reunion Celebration in proximity.

- Genet Lakeu, Metro Editor

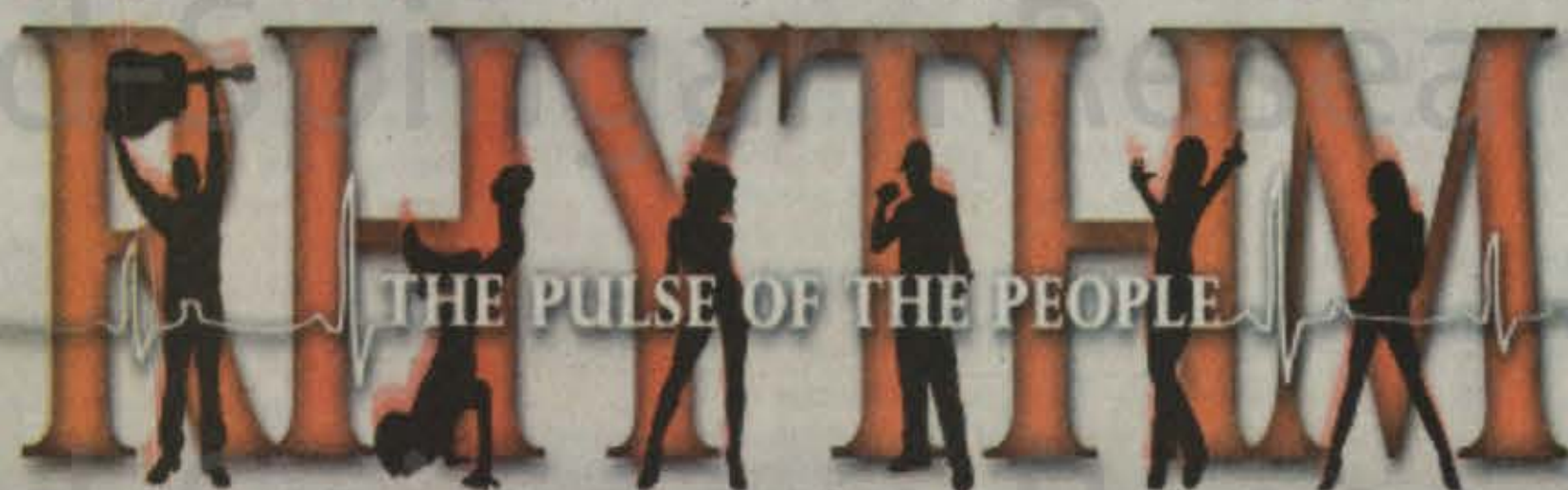
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rhythm is contagious

and unavoidable

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SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 20,
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Kanye West "Apologized" for his outburst at the VMA Awards that was posted on his blog? There it is:

"I'M SOOOOO SORRY TO TAYLOR SWIFT AND HER FANS AND HER MOM. I SPOKE TO HER MOTHER RIGHT AFTER AND SHE SAID THE SAME THING MY MOTHER WOULD'VE SAID. SHE IS VERY TALENTED! I LIKE THE LYRICS ABOUT BEING A CHEERLEADER AND SHE'S IN THE BLEACHERS!..... I'M IN THE WRONG FOR GOING ON STAGE AND TAKING AWAY FROM HER MOMENT!..... BEYONCE'S VIDEO WAS THE BEST OF THIS DECADE!!!! I'M SORRY TO MY FRIENDS AT MTV. I WILL APOLOGIZE TO TAYLOR 2MRW. WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD!!!! EVERYBODY WANNA BOOOOO ME BUT I'M A FAN OF REAL POP CULTURE!!! NO DISRESPECT BUT WE WATCHIN' THE SHOW AT THE CRIB RIGHT NOW CAUSE... WELL YOU KNOW!!!! I'M STILL HAPPY FOR TAYLOR!!!! BOOY-AAAWWW!!!! YOU ARE VERY VERY TALENTED!!! I GAVE MY AWARDS TO OUTKAST WHEN THEY DESERVED IT OVER ME... THAT'S WHAT IT IS!!!!!! I'M NOT CRAZY YALL. I'M JUST REAL SORRY FOR THAT!!! I REALLY FEEL BAD FOR TAYLOR AND I'M SINCERELY SORRY!!! MUCH RESPECT!!!!!!"

- Compiled by Cierra Jones Life & Style Editor

Emotional Intelligence Heightens Sexual Pleasure

BY JASMINE TURNER
Contributing Writer

Recent studies at King's College in London show that women with a higher intelligence have a more satisfying sex life. Don't go running to Barnes and Noble just yet, because it is not intellectual intelligence that will give you a foot up in the bedroom but emotional intelligence otherwise known as EI.

Emotional intelligence is the ability to monitor and manage one's feelings and emotions in oneself and others. Research revealed an association between emotional intelligence and the frequency of orgasms during masturbation and intercourse.

The study involved a total of 2,035 female twins ranging from 18 to 25. To measure each woman's emotional intelligence they were given a questionnaire giving details of their sexual behavior and performance. They also answered numerous questions designed to test their emotional intelligence.

Within the questionnaire they were asked to rate their ability to reach an orgasm on a seven point scale ranging from "never" to "always."

Traits having to do with emotional intelligence include self expression, empathy and contentment. Results showed that participants most in touch with their feelings had the most orgasms.

"It makes sense. Having more control over your emotions makes sex more satisfying," said Dijon Richardson, a junior finance major.



Julie Notarianni - The Seattle Times (MCT)

Emotional intelligence was proven to increase a woman's ability to have a sexual orgasm, in a recent study done at King's College in London.

The study looked at twins to compare and contrast sexual satisfaction. The twin who was measured having the highest emotional intelligence had a larger number of orgasms.

"It doesn't surprise me because if you're used to connecting with your feelings and others around you, then you can be more aware of your feelings as well as your partner's feelings in the moment," said Brittney Bates, a junior marketing major.

The study was done in hopes of delivering answers and helping

women with their sexual frustrations.

Approximately 30 percent of women find it difficult and even impossible to climax during sex.

Often, women will get as far as marriage and children but never a sexual climax. Becoming more emotionally intelligent will help these women to improve their sex lives, and maybe even their lives in general.

"Emotional intelligence seems to have a direct impact on women's sexual functioning by influencing her ability to communi-

cate her sexual expectations and desires to her partner," said Andrea Burri, a psychologist at King's College London and lead author of the study.

Emotional intelligence has also been proven to improve people's lives in more ways than just one. According to unh.edu, emotional intelligence can help one in the work place as well and the level of one's emotional intelligence can help measure one's predicted success.

Interracial Relationships Break the Color Barrier



Frank Rivers-Orlando Sentinel (MCT)

Stereotypes of why black men and women date outside the community include black women being too "feisty."

BY SHANNON WHITE
Contributing Writer

Interracial relationships have always been a sensitive subject among many Americans, especially those in the black community.

It was only four decades ago that interracial marriages were against the law in certain states.

A Stanford University

study shows that the number of interracial couples has more than tripled since 1970.

When most people hear the words "interracial relationship," they immediately think of a relationship between an African-American and a Caucasian. According to an article on Lovesknow.com, 73 percent of all African-American and Caucasian

marriages have a black husband and a white wife.

For some black women, seeing this type of relationship stirs feelings of anger and resentment.

"It kind of upsets me when I see a black man with another race," said Jewell Boone, a junior nursing major. "As a race, we've worked so hard to overcome our obstacles, and I believe we [black people] should stick together as a people."

There could be many reasons why these feelings of resentment surface when seeing an interracial couple. Howard University faculty member Kellina-Craig Henderson wrote a book in 2006 entitled, "Black Men in Interracial Relationships."

In her book, she writes about the stereotypes that we have about others and how they can cause feelings of anger.

"Some black men stereotype all black women as too feisty, and not as willing to do as much for their man as a woman of a different race would," Boone said.

Although the notion of stereotypes may be viewed by some African-Americans as the reason for the feelings of anger and resentment, everyone does not share the same opinion.

Some African-Americans are accepting of interracial dating. "Interracial relationships are no different than any others. People who give them special attention are insecure in what they have," said Michael Tomlin-Crutchfield, a junior broadcast journalism major.

Interracial couples are not only limited to black and white. There are many different types of interracial partnerships such as Asian and white, black and Asian,

Hispanic and white, Hispanic and black and the list can continue on and on. Many people feel as though they have to compete with other races to marry within the race.

Based on the statistics from Lovesknow.com for every 1,000 married Asian women, there are only 860 married Asian men. Likewise, for every 1,000 married African-American women, there are 1,059 married African-American men.

No matter the race, people find love in different ways with different people.

Recent Howard graduate, Brenda Bryant, talks about the love within her interracial relationship: "Race is never an issue in our relationship. True love has no color; he is beautiful inside and out...that is all I ever see," Bryant said.

She met her boyfriend at Howard and was drawn to his presence, not his color. "Dating him is different from anyone I've ever dated black or white. He is a true man of God and respects himself first, so it's much easier for him to respect me," she said.

Many people want to find someone who is compatible with them, and that person for them might be the same race, a different race, a different religion or even from a different country.

Bryant said the looks people give them don't bother her; he makes her happy and that is what is important in relationships.

"People stare at us all the time. I'm sure some people stare because we are an interracial couple but others stare because my man is just plain old fine," she said.

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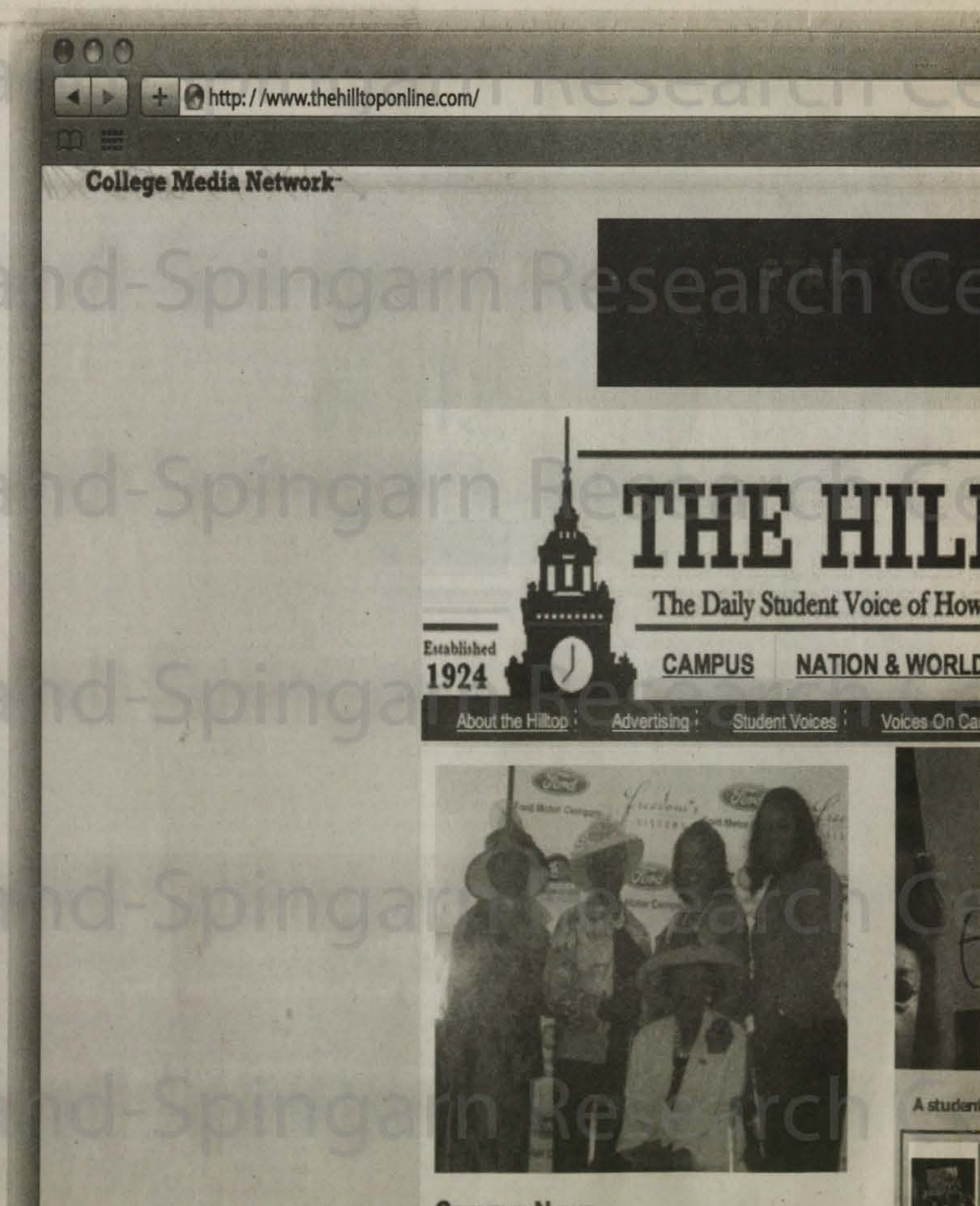
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Ed Betz - Newsday (MGT)

Serena Williams Called For Crossing the Line

It is quite often that a referee, or official of some sort, makes a call that an athlete does not agree with, and every so often an athlete responds.

In Serena Williams' case, it lost her a chance in the U.S. Open Finals.

After a line judge declared that Williams committed a "foot fault", Williams began to yell at this official. The line judge and the chair umpire discussed what happened, at what seemed to be the chair umpire's discretion. After another meeting with the chair umpire, and higher officials, someone claimed that Williams said she would kill the line judge.

Let's stop right there.

If that had been true, most people would IMMEDIATELY report that to authorities. This line judge didn't. Whether it was her idea to confer with the chair umpire or not, she still hesitated. A death threat doesn't

warrant hesitation; it warrants immediate action.

While still on the court, Williams immediately denied making the death threat.

It's clear that whatever she said, she said in the heat

with, but if every athlete argued the calls, and overruled the officials, there would be no point in paying officials, and the games would turn into screaming matches.

Serena Williams, along with many other black athletes, represent black people in the sports industry. This is sad, but true. Outbursts of this sort can be quite embarrassing. To make it this far in competition, only to lose because she was upset at a call, proves many negative stereotypes correct. The weight of the black world should not be on her shoulders, but yes, she represents more than just herself.

We can forgive her for being upset, but now that this incident has occurred, people will be watching her much more closely, and we'd hate to see her lose her chance at any other championship matches.

Our View:

She represents more than just herself, so she needs to be more mindful of her reactions.

of the moment -- it happens. After the match was called, Williams shook hands with her opponent, but it takes more than that to be a good sport.

Good sportsmanship requires that you respect the nature of the game. That includes the rules, opponents, and yes, the officials. Many calls are made every day that athletes don't agree

Perspective

A "Thank You" Note

As students everywhere enter or return to their respective colleges or universities across the country, I take the opportunity to think about what advice I would give my nephew entering Howard University as a freshman. After all, it was just 37 years ago that I was in his shoes.

In 2006, I had the honor of being the graduation speaker for my hometown high school. I told the graduating class that they should write a "thank you" note to their parents, teachers and others who helped them reach that milestone in their lives. My third grade teacher, Mrs. Eudoxia Dalton, was in the audience and I thanked her for helping me to get to where I am today. Besides her incredible encouragement, Mrs. Dalton taught my class how not to read "like a square-wheeled bicycle."

Next, I recalled that during my Howard University years, I wrote my

mother a letter and told her how much I appreciated all she sacrificed to help me to get through college and that one day, I hoped to repay her for helping me.

When I wrote the "thank you" note to my mother, I didn't know then that over three decades later I wouldn't even have begun to repay her for all of her sacrifices.

In fact, as my mother nears her 80th birthday suffering with Alzheimer's disease, I realize now that in my middle age I will never be able to fully repay my parents.

In 2004, my daughter, Camille, in her freshman year at Howard, made me very proud when she sent me the following e-mail which ended with a "thank you" note.

"Dad, hey Dad, it's me, Camille, in case you didn't recognize my e-mail name. How are you? ... I'm having a fun time meeting people from all over. I'm

also a little apprehensive about the rigorosity of my classes, but I will try to do my very best. ... Dad, I just want to say that I really appreciate all you sacrificed for me to attend Howard. Take care, and I hope you and the family are well. Love you lots, Camille."

I'm grateful today that I've heard the words "thank you" from not only Camille, but also her sister and brother, many times since they left home for college. I hope that each and every student remembers to send a thank you note to those who help and inspire them in their educational and life journeys. In all of my life's experiences, I have learned that the two most powerful, important and heartfelt words in the English vocabulary are "Thank You."

- Joe L. Webster
B.A. 1976
J.D. 19

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

Wrong Side of the Crib

Charles Metze III



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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.

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