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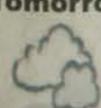
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WEATHER

 **75**
64
Tomorrow:
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Established
1924



THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 93, NO.17

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Wednesday's Notebook

BREAKING NEWS

THE HOUSE OFFICIALLY REBUKED REP. JOE WILSON FOR SHOUTING "YOU LIE!" DURING PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION SPEECH.

SPORTS

TENNIS PLAYER SERENA WILLIAMS APOLOGIZED FOR HER OUTBURST AT THE U.S. OPEN DURING HER SEMIFINALS MATCH.

LIFE & STYLE

READ ABOUT HOW STUDENTS COPE WITH THE DIFFICULTIES ASSOCIATED WITH LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIPS.

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Students Discuss Issues on Health Care



Zelena Williams - Photo Editor

Zakiyah Jones-Martin sheds tears at the "Any Other Options?" rally as she shares her family's tragic health care story with the sympathetic audience.

BY LAUREN GASPARD
Contributing Writer

On Tuesday, Zakiyah Jones-Martin, had the audience in tears as she gave a riveting personal testimonial of how the government's health care system played a role in her mother's death at the "Any Other Options?" campaign rally. Sophomore English major,

Martin, was in the 6th grade when her mother was diagnosed with cancer at stage three, a volatile stage in the disease. For a small period, the cancer was in remission but came back spreading to a bone in her back and the base of her brain.

"My mother went through countless treatments, radiation, chemotherapy; including 10 weeks of intense radiation directly to her

brain. As a result, my mother could no longer work," Martin said.

Martin then said how her mother's medical benefits were revoked because she was no longer working, which forced her mother to frantically search for another insurance provider.

"She searched everywhere for insurance companies, and no one would accept her," Martin said.

"She didn't even want to go to the doctor anymore, because she felt she was being treated differently."

The day of her mother's death, Martin and family members went to the hospital and registered her mother for a room, where she waited nine hours just to be placed, Martin said. A few days later, Martin saw her mother take her last breath. Two weeks after her death,

her mother received approval for Medicaid and Medicare.

"All I could do was cry," Martin said, "My mother died at the hands of a malicious health care system. Papers and processes should never get in the way of saving a life."

A roaring call and response was led by junior English major, Corey Briscoe, starting the chant with "What do we want?... Health care!... When do we want it?... Now!"

About 200 students gathered in Cramton Auditorium to support the health care reform rally sponsored by the "Any Other Options?" campaign in conjunction with Students for Health Care Reform.

A panel of speakers sat on the stage before the audience consisting of: HUSA president, Bryan Smart; Undergraduate Trustee Nnamdi Anozie; former Undergraduate Trustee and Howard University alumna, Victoria Kirby; "Any Other Options?" campaign chairman, Drew Costley; White House Representative and Coordinator for the African American Outreach Program for President Barack Obama, Michael Blake; and SGA president for the School of Divinity, Joseph Smith.

Costley, former *Hilltop* editor-in-chief, started the speaker series by stating the effect that health care reform has on our current generation.

"This debate is about

> See **HEALTH**, page 3

House Nears OK on Dramatic Expansion of College Aid

BY DAVID LIGHTMAN
McClatchy Newspapers

The House of Representatives is expected this week to back overhauling - and simplifying - how college students receive financial aid.

The rules for awarding and repaying loans would remain unchanged, but the government would make all loans itself, ending the practice of subsidizing loans made by private lenders.

The Obama administration, which has made revamping the

student loan system a major domestic priority, has hailed the bill as historic.

"This is a big, big deal," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said Tuesday at a news conference. He called the measure "the largest investment in higher education since the GI Bill" first passed in 1944 to help World War II veterans.

House Education and Labor Committee chairman, George Miller (D-Calif.) vowed that the legislation would help students at "no cost to taxpayers."

That depends on how one interprets budget data, however. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) found that the loan program changes should save the government \$86.8 billion over the next 10 years.

It also noted in its official July report on the bill, however, that it would include spending all but \$7.8 billion of that on aid to students and higher education. In an update last week, the CBO said economic changes could boost spending overall by \$10.5 billion, meaning that the bill could add to the deficit.

"The truth is, no one really knows how much this plan will cost," said Rep.

John Kline (R-Minn.) the senior Education and Labor Committee Republican.

Independent analysts agreed.

Changes in the loan program will "save a big chunk of money," said Marc Goldwein, the policy director for the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a watchdog group. "Will it be the right amount to offset the new spending? The obvious answer is we don't know."

Goldwein warned that the new system's fiscal outlook would be "particularly uncertain" because it would depend on economy-related factors such as default rates, need-based aid and other factors.

The bill would scrap much of the current student loan system, which critics said is too costly and too complicated.

Currently, the federal government provides loans through two different programs. It lends directly to students, and it administers the guaranteed loan program, in which students get funds from private lenders, with most of the loan guaranteed by the government against default.

Under one such loan, the government pays the interest while the student is in school. The student then begins repaying six months after graduation. If he or she defaults, the government makes the payment.

Until 2006, rates were variable but capped at 8.25 percent; after that they were fixed at 6.8 percent, with bipartisan

> See **AID**, page 3



Jessica Lewis - Campus Editor

Doughboys Bake Up Bread Deals for Students

For a dollar, students purchased loaves of bread, buns, french toast and other yeasty treats out of the trunk of a candy-apple red Dodge Charger outside of The Howard Plaza Towers.

A group of senior males started delivering the goods "Bread 4 Bison" last week and will continue at different spots on campus every Tuesday.

They call themselves "The Doughboys": Seniors Robert Boyd (picture), a telecommunications major, gets the bread for free from a local bakery and works with Lyndon Gray, a broadcast journalism major; and Hasan Asad, a sports management major.

"Bread is \$4, and we made it \$1," Gray said.

In two weeks, they have made about \$60 to \$70. Sept. 8, they decided to give away some bread to get the business going.

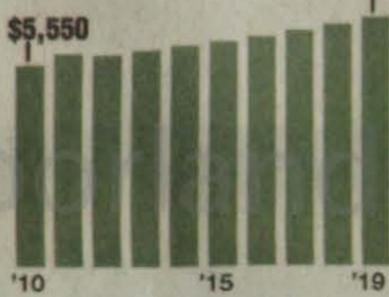
The group sends out event notices via its Facebook group "Doughboy Inc" to let students know where they will be each Tuesday.

- Jessica Lewis, Campus Editor

Increased funds for Pell grants?

A new bill before Congress would simplify applications for student loans and direct more money to Pell grants for low-income students

Estimated maximum award per student for Pell grants



Source: Congressional Budget Office
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2009 MCT

Williams' Threat Heard Around the World

BY HEATHER ROBINSON
Staff Writer

As the lights shown bright over Arthur Ashe Stadium, loud grunts could be heard over the inaudible audience. Their heads swivelled from left to right, holding their breath with each ground stroke.

This was the intense scene Saturday night as Serena Williams and Kim Clijsters took to the court, fighting for their right to represent their half of the draw in the U.S. Open Women's Singles Championship Final.

"Watching the match on television, it was as if every point meant everything to [both players]," Tamila Myles, a junior public relations major said. "The intensity level was crazy."

The stage had been set since the women's draw was announced. It would either be another story of Williams' dominance the comeback story of Clijsters, a woman who once challenged the Williams sisters but gave up her career to start a family.

Screams of "Come on" and over-exaggerated fist pumps riddled the court as a result of the high intensity.

What happened next shocked not only the tennis community but the world.

After being called for a foot fault, giving Clijsters a match point, Williams lost her composure, letting her temper upstage the comeback of the former #1 ranked champion Clijsters.

Williams, having been warned for losing her temper at the competition in the first set where she lost 4-6, stormed towards the lineswoman with her racket pointing accusingly and obscenities cascading off her tongue.

"I swear to God, I'll [expletive] take this ball, and shove it down your [expletive] throat," Williams said.

The audience booed, Williams' sudden outburst.

At one point, Dick Enberg, a long-time tennis announcer could be heard in the background saying,

"This is a very ugly spot, here in the pillage of the semi-finals."

Williams' actions and words were summed up as being ugly, yet tirades in professional sports are becoming extremely common.

In the past month, there have been at least two nationally televised instances, in which athletes have shown a lack of control over their tempers. LaGarrette Blount's physical assault on his teammates and an opposing player from Boise State caused an uproar over Blount's temper. Tiger Woods also had a meltdown at the Deutsche Bank Championship where he threw his driver into the nearby bushes and stormed away, leaving his caddy to find the club.

"I feel like it's a part of the game," junior political science major Michael Webb, said. "Yeah, [Williams] probably went too far, but that's what happens when you're in an intense competition."

In the post-match interview following her embarrassing behavior, Serena spoke of the infamous John McEnroe as one of the few tennis players she modeled her game after.

McEnroe was known throughout his career as the poster child for poor and unacceptable behavior. Umpires feared he would curse them out if he did not agree with a call or throw his racquet to the ground in frustration, crushing the frame.

"I guess she idolized me for the wrong reasons," McEnroe said. "I feel like I'm on the hot seat now. I can't defend the indefensible."

The only other time in the history of tennis in which a player lost as a direct result of their tirade, was in Tim Henman's 1995 Wimbledon doubles match when he struck a tennis ball and hit an inno-



Controversy surrounding Serena Williams' actions during her match at the U.S. Open Women's Singles Championship Final has sparked debate about whether she should be given a harsher punishment than the fine she received.

cent 16-year old ball girl in the face in frustration. The ball struck her at an astonishing 92 miles per hour, forcing Henman and his partner Jeremy Bates to forfeit the match.

Serena Williams' actions have now put the United States Tennis Association (USTA) in an awkward predicament. Having fined Williams \$10,500 for her vi-

olent words to the lineswoman and also for smashing her racket after the first set, they must now decide if she deserves to be suspended.

"The Grand Slam Rule Book also allows for an investigation to be conducted by the Grand Slam Committee administrator to determine if the behavior of Ms. Williams warrants consideration as a

major offense, for which additional penalties can be imposed," U.S. Open tournament referee Brian Earley said in a statement released to the press. "This investigation has now begun."

Williams has since issued an apology to the lineswoman, her opponent, her family, and her fans.

Lady Bison Soccer Coach Kicks Into Full Gear



Photo Courtesy of Howard University Sports Information Desk
Coach Brent Leiba has his players and coaching staff motivated to become a force to reckon with this season.

BY JACQUELYN ROSS
Contributing Writer

After a 4-11 overall record last year, Howard's women's soccer team is hoping to create a major transformation this season. With new head coach Brent Leiba, the aspirations of success are closer to completion than ever before.

A 2001 graduate of George Mason University, Leiba was a leading player for the university's soccer team for four years. Leiba, who has been actively playing soccer since the age of four, describes himself as someone who was raised by the game and knows it well.

"My father played on the national championship team [at Howard]," Leiba said. "With him being a soccer player, I grew up with the ball at my feet."

A former head coach at Robert E. Lee High School in Springfield, Va. and member of the Wash-

ington Freedom coaching staff, Leiba not only possesses the skills but also the credentials to lead the Lady Bison to a victorious season.

"He brings a new mentality to the entire program," Ellis Pierre, assistant coach said. "I've known Leiba for 10 years and have seen what he has done with his other teams. He has a high standard for the game."

Camille Grayson, a sophomore broadcast journalism major and second year defensive player for the Lady Bison, agrees that Leiba's knowledge of the game is a major benefit to the team.

"He's a bit more experienced than our previous coach as far as his own experience in soccer," Grayson said. "He also has great coaching skills."

A product of two Howard alumni, Leiba's decision to coach for the university was quite simple for him to make.

"Both of my parents

went here so I was familiar with the school, making it easy for me," Leiba said. "The program was also in rebuilding, and I was very intrigued by that."

Picked as the new head coach for the women's soccer team in March, Leiba came shortly after the team became an associate member of the Great West Conference.

This was perfect timing for a team transition as they join Delaware State, South Carolina State and the New Jersey Institute of Technology in the conference's Eastern Division.

"The players are better than they have been. He's really elevating the team," Pierre said.

"His coaching methods are great for the team," Grayson said. "Coach Leiba focuses on all aspects of the game of soccer - speed, endurance, ball skills, and a very strong focus on not only building individual talent on

the team, but building as a unit."

Despite the team's current 0-4-1 record, the steady progress of the women's soccer team from previous seasons have not gone unnoticed.

According to Leiba, scouts have commented on the major improvements of the team in comparison to previous years and have called Howard's players "hard working."

"We practice every day, even on weekends," Grayson said.

With any luck, all of the Lady Bison's hard work and training will in turn pay off into a very successful season.

"We're looking to make some noise this year," Leiba said. "The opportunity is there for us to be competitive. The program is definitely in the right direction."

Sports Trivia!
What year did Serena Williams debut playing professional tennis?
Answer:
1995

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY
September 16, 1983
ABL MVP Nikki McCray signs with WNBA

Want to write for sports?
E-mail thehilltopsports@gmail.com for more information.

Health Care Discussion Becomes Personal

continued from FRONT, HEALTH

how the country values corporate interest over the interest of the American people and humanity at large," he said.

Costley closed by encouraging the audience to mobilize in order to see change.

"Any revolution that is effective must be carried out and supported by the people, not the congress, not the president," Costley said.

Anozie enforced the idea of the audience educating themselves about the various components of the bill and reform, and the benefits that students have access to.

Kirby told her own personal story of how she dealt with the health care system while being diagnosed with narcolepsy her freshman year at Howard.

"I came on scholarship to Howard, and now I have \$2,000 worth of unpaid medical bills because of my lack of insurance,"

Kirby said.

Michael Blake, deputy associate director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, came to discuss the health care reform and said that it's always exciting to see black, young adults doing something for change.

He told the students to fight until Obama signs the bill. "Our moment to stand up is now," he said. "It is unacceptable for anyone to go broke if they're sick."

Blake gave his own personal

story about his mother's condition and the lack of available care at his birth that resulted in his heart murmur.

He said that Obama was not the first one to try and figure it out, but he will be the last to try and get it out.

During the closing, Clifton Ross, III left the audience with the harmonic melody of the song "Stand."

House to Help With Loans

continued from FRONT, AID

support. Some rates then were lowered, but they're scheduled to go back up to 6.8 percent in 2012.

The bill would end the guaranteed loan program after next summer; then the government would make all loans directly.

That frightens some members of Congress.

"The U.S. Department of Education would become a behemoth federal bank," Kline said. "Democrats have had their sights set on a government takeover of student lending for more than a decade, and they're capitalizing on the market downturn to make it happen."

He sees parallels to the health care debate. Obama has urged creating a government-run health insurance program, or public option, to compete with the private sector.

"The legislation (on student aid) we're about to bring up ... eliminates the private option and leaves only the public option," Kline said. "It kind of makes you wonder, doesn't it, about the designs on the future of the public option in health care."

The new program would create big savings, the CBO figures. It would save money because of changes in subsidy rates, the CBO said. Some savings could be achieved with lower interest rates; the bill would set a new rate based on the price of 91-day Treasury bills plus 2.5 percentage points. The rate would be adjusted annually.

At the same time, though, the measure would expand the cost of the Pell Grant program, which helps lower-income students. Currently, the maximum annual award is \$5,350. Under the bill, that would grow to \$6,900 by 2019. The CBO estimated in July that the changes would cost the government at least \$39.4 billion over that period.

Members of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators are divided on the bill's merits. Justin Draeger, the organization's vice president of public policy, likes the Pell Grant provisions.

"Any investment we can make in Pell Grants is money well spent. There's been irrefutable evidence that providing low-income families with these dollars year after year increases access to education," he said.

Most activists and lawmakers agree on at least one point: The application process needs to be streamlined. The bill promises to "dramatically cut down the number of questions on the form," partly by allowing students and families to apply for aid using data from their tax returns.

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Howard's Tension Rises

Divided Parties Debate on the Health Bill

BY LAUREN GASPARD
Staff Writer

Whether Democratic or Republican, Americans have been in constant debate over the health care reform plan proposed by President Barack Obama. Both parties have been stating their views regarding the potential health care bill.

From the Democratic perspective, President Obama's health care plan is more comprehensive and attainable for Americans when it comes to affordability.

According to the United States Department of Labor, the unemployment rate has risen to 9.7 percent as of August. Due to this lack of employment, a number of U.S. citizens are without health care benefits or medical insurance.

One view is that Obama's plan for health care will allow all Americans, even those who are unemployed, to attain health care, according to PresidentObama.com. It was

also said that the prices of insurance as dictated by insurance companies continue to rise.

Obama said that the new health care plan "will lower the cost of health care for our families, our businesses and our government."

Howard University College Democrats support Obama in his endeavors and plan to spread awareness about the benefits of the overall health care reform to undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate students who are entering into the corporate market.

Amal Bennett-Judge, a junior political science major and former president of Howard University College Democrats, said Obama is simply fulfilling a promise that he made within his campaign.

"Obama is dealing with a serious domestic issue. With the recession in full force, Americans are being laid off," Bennett-Judge said.

"When they fall ill, or

need to take care of minor health issues, they go to the emergency room. Now the government pays tons of money for Americans with no insurance. This is simply a better and more effective way to run the system."

The Republican view is different. Republicans do not think the plan is ineffective, but feel that there should be more detail.

Republicans have shown strong opposition in the debate, which was demonstrated by Senator Joe Wilson (R-S.C.), when he loudly said "You Lie," in the middle of Obama's speech during a joint session on Sept. 9.

The outburst occurred when Obama addressed some points within his health care reform plan that Wilson disagreed with.

Brittney House, a sophomore biology major, said that as a student, she is very optimistic about the health care plan.

"I think it's a wonderful plan and idea, especially for when I graduate. It will

certainly be beneficial for families who are unable to afford Blue Shield or Blue Cross," House said.

House said the views of the Republican Party are contradictory to one of the founding points of their party: family. "That is very selfish of them for not wanting to support the reform when it will directly affect themselves and their families. It doesn't make sense."

Another point of the reform is to offer an option in case of emergency. The "Any Other Options?" campaign, which is a Howard University student initiative to foster a generational conversation about the impact of reform on the future, was created based on this particular point.

"The most logical component about this bill is that it is simply giving you an option," Bennett-Judge said. "There is no force or mandate telling you to take part in the reform. It is simply giving Americans an option if they come across a situation where health care

becomes unaffordable."

Marc H. Morial, president and ceo of the National Urban League, issued a statement on Sept. 16 in regards to a meeting held with Congressional Black Caucus, National Urban League and NAACP president, Ben Jealous.

Morial said that the American people would not be taken advantage of, or cheated when it comes to health care, which has become an accusation against Democrats and President Obama. "We made it clear that the plan would not create so-called 'death panels' with the power to kill off senior citizens; coverage will not be extended to illegal immigrants; and no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions," Morial said.

He also discussed the point of the public option by saying that it would be an essential option to hold down costs. It simply increases competition.

"That is the very essence of capitalism," he said.



SGA @ Divinity School president, Joseph Smith, led the students present in a tradition. They raised their fists in honor of the Black National Anthem "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing."

Victoria Kirby, graduate student and former undergraduate trustee, placed her hand over her heart in sentiment of the moving testimony given by Zakiyah Jones-Martin in regards to her mother.



Zelena Williams - Photo Editor



Olayomi Sodupe - Staff Photographer

A group of students stood together showing support for the leaders of the rally and those in attendance. Students found comfort in one another as multiple people gave testimonies about the detrimental effects of having no health care. From passings to birth complications, students joined in understanding.

Five Health Care Facts Revealed

1. A recent study found that 62 percent of all bankruptcies filed in 2007 were linked to medical expenses. Of those who filed for bankruptcy, nearly 80 percent had health insurance.
2. According to another published article, about 1.5 million families lose their homes to foreclosure every year due to unaffordable medical costs.
3. Without health care reform, small businesses will pay nearly \$2.4 trillion over the next 10 years in health care costs for their workers; 178,000 small business jobs will be lost by 2018 as a result of health care costs; \$834 billion in small business wages will be lost due to high health care costs over the next 10 years; small businesses will lose \$52.1 billion in profits to high health care costs, and 1.6 million small business workers will suffer "job lock" — roughly one in 16 people currently insured by their employers.
4. National health spending is expected to reach \$2.5 trillion in 2009, accounting for 17.6 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP). By 2018, national health care expenditures are expected to reach \$4.4 trillion — more than double 2007 spending.
5. Most Americans have health insurance through their employers, yet employment is no longer a guarantee of health insurance coverage. As America continues to move from a manufacturing-based economy to a service economy, and employee working patterns continue to evolve, health insurance coverage has become less stable. The service sector offers less access to health insurance than its manufacturing counterparts.



Zelena Williams - Photo Editor

Students raised their fists alongside Howard's first lady, Paula Whetsel-Ribeau. Students cried, chanted, shouted, rallied and stood together pledging to continue to fight for reform. Students plan to gather at the flagpole at 8 a.m. on Thursday morning to hear Obama speak at the University of Maryland.



Olayomi Sodupe - Staff Photographer

Two female students read a small handout given out by campaign volunteers upon entering the auditorium that detailed what's next for the campaign and how they can get involved. The slip listed a hot line, the UMD trip and "HU on the Hill," where students will speak to their representatives every Wednesday.

OVER HEALTH CARE

Health Care Legislation Not to Include Abortion

The Hyde Amendment states that no federal funds can be used to support abortion procedures.



President Obama addressed the House of Representatives regarding the new health care plan that he wishes to implement. Other than a few negative remarks, the widespread reception of the plan is well.

BY MARGIE TRAX PAGE
McClatchy Newspapers

Health care reform legislation supported and co-written by U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown will not provide federal dollars for abortions, Brown's community liaison, Max Blachman, said.

Blachman fielded questions from a room full of pro-life supporters at the Geneva Public Library Monday afternoon, trying to calm fears about federally funded abortions and "death panels."

The meeting was organized by local right-to-life supporter Kay Balish, who called the health care reform bill "dangerous to women."

"I oppose this bill because it supports abortion, and abortion is

dangerous to women," she said. "It is damaging because women could feel pressured into abortions by their families and boyfriends because then it will be covered by insurance."

In the meeting, which began with an opening prayer, Blachman said no federal funds go to Planned Parenthood because of the Hyde Amendment, a provision barring the use of federal funds to pay for abortions.

"There is not a single provision for abortion (in the reform bill)," he said. "In fact, President Obama said there will be no federal funding of abortion. It is the intention of the people writing this bill to adhere to that."

Balish said she opposes school-based sexual education and

reproduction clinics that may give students information on abortion and is also against federal coverage of chemical contraceptives, "and any other elective procedures the government may pay for."

Blachman said the lawmakers aren't looking for a way to provide abortions.

"Nearly 400 Ohioans lose their health care every day because the health care system is unsustainable," he said. "Right now we do not have the best access to health care in this country."

A voice from the back of the crowd asked Blachman about a national system that would ration health care.

"Right now insurance companies are rationing your health care through pre-existing condi-

tions, and dropping coverage to people who become sick or too old, or put caps on the dollar amount of care allowed," Blachman said. "Rationing is when you have a system that says you have a limit on the care you can receive."

"Claims about rationing health care in this bill are dishonest and it is fear-mongering," he said.

Another audience member said she is concerned about so-called "death panels."

"The thing about death panels is that it is just not true," Blachman said. "Death panel rumors are malicious lies. The term 'death panel' is outrageous and offensive."

Blachman said the only mention of end-of-life care in the Democratic health care bills are through patient directives.

"This is not assisted suicide, this is saying you deserve to have an honest conversation with your doctor about your wishes at the end of your life," he said. "Do you want hospice? Do you want total care until the end of your life? This is about living wills and getting the end of life care you want, not euthanasia or death panels."

Alycia Holland, a junior international business major, agrees with the legislation.

"When a person decides to do something like get an abortion, it is a very important decision and requires a lot of thought," Holland said. "If it's in a health care plan, it is making it easy to access and won't require much. It will be as simple as getting a vaccination. And [an abortion] should not be that easy."

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE OBAMA HEALTH CARE REFORM PLAN?

BREAKDOWN

Total surveyed: 500

Unsure: 276

In Favor: 169

Against: 42

Don't Care: 13

Males: 232

Females: 268

Freshmen: 116

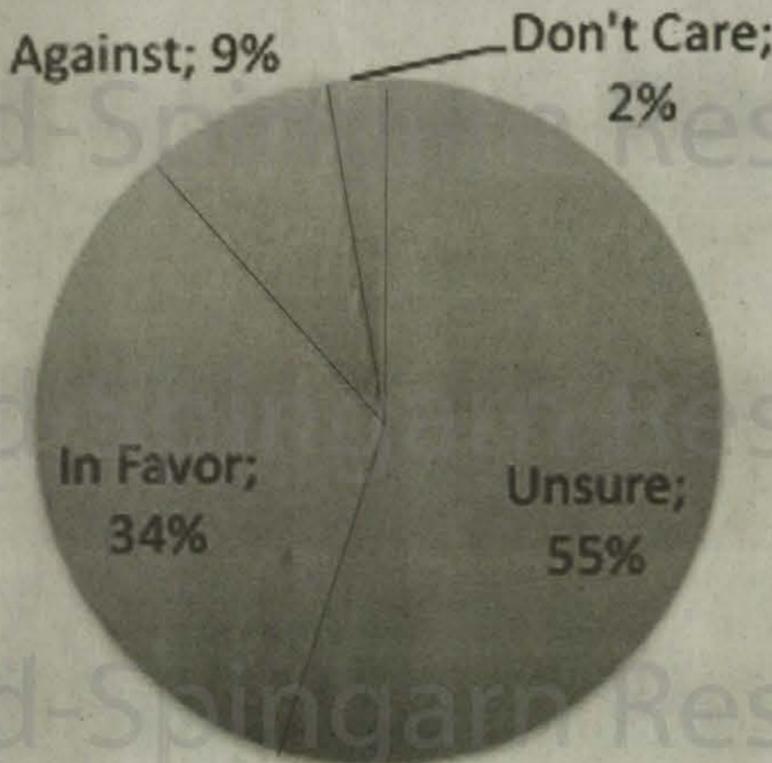
Sophomores: 138

Juniors: 142

Seniors: 82

Graduate: 22

The Hilltop surveyed 500 students at random places around campus over the past week to see how the student body feels about healthcare. Here are the results:



Heard on the Survey Trail...

>>I'm not really sure. That's something that my parents take care of. I've never really looked much into it.

>>I think people are making too big a deal over it."

>>It is a wonderful plan. It is going to make health care more affordable for everyone and I rock with that. I do want some clarity as to whether or not it really will cover illegal aliens.

>>President Obama is making a mockery of this country and its failing economy.

- Compiled by Marquis H. Barnett
Nation & World Editor

Long Distance Relationships May Be Worth the Effort

More couples around the country are finding ways to keep their relationships alive despite the miles that separate them



Faraday Okoro - Photo Editor

More than one million couples in the U.S. live in separate cities, according to the Center for the Study of Long-distance Relationships.

BY JASMINE TURNER
Contributing Writer

If you have ever been in a long-distance relationship you can attest to the fact that it isn't the simplest approach to being with the one you love.

Summer approaches and you tell yourself you're just going to have fun; you find yourself having a little too much fun with that special someone. Fall arrives;

you leave; they stay but something inside of you wants to hold on to those starry nights that brought you together in the first place.

Long-distance relationships are often frowned upon and in an era where chivalry seems to be dead and people are more prone to having one night stands instead of actual relationships, the idea of a long-distance relationship seems to be out of the question.

"Long-distance relationships

work for the short term, but not longer than a year or so," junior finance major, Jessica Patton said. "There is a sense of security knowing that after six months you will go back to seeing your significant other everyday again."

A long-distance relationship often brings exciting passion, precious moments and significant emotional bonding.

Not knowing when you're going to see that special someone

again makes the moments you spend together that much more valuable. The time spent apart allows you to build a strong foundation for the relationship.

Unfortunately, being in a long-distance relationship can also bring you a sense of loneliness and a lack of physical intimacy which can lead to misunderstandings and unnecessary conflict.

Sometimes couples may struggle with the financial burden

when they find themselves traveling from state to state to visit or when the phone bill costs a little more than usual.

Often times couples decide not to have the relationship at all rather than attempt a long-distance commitment, believing they are setting themselves up for failure.

Experts on Discovery-Health.com want people to "keep in mind that the length of time you had to get to know the person before you were separated will have a lot to do with how successful your long-distance romance will be."

According to the Center for the Study of Long-distance Relationships, the success of long-distance relationships is something to be optimistic about.

More than one million couples are living in separate U.S. cities and over 700,000 couples in long-distance relationships are married.

Junior marketing major, Alex McChester says, "I think they do work as long as you have a set schedule and a great deal of trust."

Communication is also a key factor. Undoubtedly, couples in long-distance relationships must put effort into making their relationship work.

The two people involved must have a mutual agreement about certain aspects of the relationship and the will to make it work.

"It depends on how strongly you feel about the person. It's not really a yes or no thing," sophomore pre-pharmacy major Shaadiya Bonds said. "You have to ask yourself how far you are willing to go. How determined are you to make it work?"

Spring, Winter Graduates Attempt to Find Work

BY STEPHEN KNOX
Contributing Writer

Two of the goals on a senior's checklist are number one to graduate, and number two to figure out what comes after graduation.

The second step has stressed college seniors for many years. Considering the state of the economy in the last twelve months, graduates need every advantage possible.

One issue to consider is whether companies hire more after spring or winter.

Howard '09' alumnus

Michael Benjamin had a difficult summer searching for job opportunities.

"I didn't get offered a job until the third week of August. "It was a roller coaster ride. Once I realized I really needed to stay positive, things improved," Benjamin said.

Even though Benjamin had a difficult time with his job search he said his friends that graduated in December had an even harder time finding work.

"It was hard for everyone," he said. "For those that graduated in the winter of 2008, it was much worse because the economy was

worse. There were many more hiring freezes."

Overall, Benjamin is satisfied with the way things have turned out after graduation.

"If I had to do it over again I would definitely graduate in May. Spring semester was very beneficial; it even helped [me] get the job I have at MSG Varsity."

Senior criminal justice major Cameron Lewis-King will graduate this December and is currently figuring out his next step.

"So far my job search has gone very well," King said. "I currently work security so I can do that until I find a more permanent

position. I have already spoken to Chief James about a campus security position."

Friends of King are not having as good of luck though.

"A lot of my friends graduating with me are going to graduate school or taking jobs not in their field," King said. "The ones that graduated already are either taking some time off to relax, or are also going to graduate school."

King believes that winter graduation will benefit him.

"I believe graduating in December is the best for gaining employment faster," King said.

"December is the end of the year so companies can see if they met their yearly goals. They can also see if they have extra money to hire based on their projected upcoming fiscal year earnings."

Howard School of Business academic adviser Stephen Paschelle does not do much job placement in the winter because business student don't usually graduate in December.

"Our program is so rigorous most students cannot graduate early. Most of the students I see are Spring graduates."

Division of Student Affairs, Office of Student Activities and the National Pan Hellenic Council Presents

The MisEducation of the Black Greek

Facilitator: Mr. Rasheed Ali Cromwell, ESQ.

September 21, 2009
Cramton Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

All are welcomed and required attendance for the class of 2010

Are you on Twitter?
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Bra Straps
(Fruit of the Womb)



vs.



Jock Straps
(Fruit of the Loom)

Nicolette McClendon - Cartoonist

Male or Female? What Difference Does it Make?

Imagine being at the top of your game – whatever your game may be. Imagine working hard, day and night, giving it your all. Imagine breaking records no one expected you to be able to break.

Now imagine everything you worked so hard for being on the verge of revocation because people think you're lying about your gender.

Ridiculous, right?

In the case of Caster Semenya, 18-year-old South African runner, this is life. Semenya recently won first place in the World Championship, running the 800-meter race. After winning the race, critics began to speculate whether or not she was male or female.

Well, where were these critics when she was

under the radar? Why is everyone threatened and worried now?

Here we have an 18-year-old, female athlete who has broken records and gained the worlds attention, only to be embarrassed, internationally, and have her gender questioned.

Our View:

No one cared about her gender until she won the World Championship.

Regardless of how much testosterone she may or may not have, she was raised as a female and lives her life as such. Who is anyone to question that on the basis of her looks?

She has run many races and no one has been concerned enough to have her potentially stripped of her medals.

People have criticized her gender all of her life, but she overcame that. She was often found running in her free time during her early years; clearly this is something that she has been working at for a long time.

It is one thing to feel like she is at an unfair advantage, but it is another thing to bring unnecessary attention to her and affect her chances of success.

She cannot change who she is – she shouldn't have to – and now that we understand this, we should leave her alone.

Perspective

Black vs. Brown

Throughout the history of the United States of America, there have been several internal conflicts that we call Civil Wars. In the early 21st century, many of America's inner cities are engaged in a new Civil War, black vs. brown. A conflict, that's rooted in a lack of knowledge of self has caused the death of thousands of young Americans.

Initially during the 1800s, Africans and Mexicans had fairly good relationships. During American slavery, many blacks would escape their plantations in the South and migrate to places like Southern California where Mexicans lived and flourished for centuries. Unbeknownst to many, the two cultures shared the land, allowed each other into their respected clubs and organizations, and even had intermarriage. Currently, in many places including East Los Angeles, the love between the two cultures has turned to hate.

One reason for this is the modern gang epidemic, where many of today's gangs limit membership to members of their own race. Take for example Houston where the all-Mexican gang called Tango Blast is at war with an all-black gang called the Crips. This American gang epidemic, which started in the early 1900s, has grown at an alarming rate.

In California alone, there are 200 black gangs and 500 Mexican or Latino gangs totaling more than 500,000 members. The hate this gang epidemic helped produce has now spread to law abiding citizens of both cultures, hence the term Civil War. In 2007 in South Central, Los Angeles, blacks had a march where thousands came out to express their concerns about

Mexican Americans. The theme of the march was labeled illegal immigration. Blacks felt Mexicans were taking their jobs and were turning their communities into Spanish speaking communities.

Why have blacks in L.A. allowed their community businesses to be controlled by Spanish immigrants? Why are blacks still fighting for minimum wage jobs many Mexican Americans are working? One participant in the march, a retired teacher, said, "It's hard to shop at the community grocery store because the cashier does not speak English." Many scholars including the great John Henrik Clarke believe this is an epidemic of ethnic cleansing. Others believe it is a reaction to the separation tactic used by many war bound parties against its foe.

The negative spirit many men, women and children of all colors have allowed into their minds and bodies has caused the projection of blame. This is defined as blaming the victim for their problems. The illegal immigration issues had some valid points; however, people should never hide behind illegal immigration to speak hate for another people. We must all see that realistically, we all want the same basic freedom America is supposed to give its citizens. Not all Mexican Americans and African-Americans hate each other, and when you study this problem, you can see there are people joining together to fight against this new Civil War.

What some places like East L.A. is showing the world is that if we don't pay more attention to this growing problem, it will continue to spin out of control. These two respected cultures can

gain some sense of strength through analyzing how the gang truce of L.A. in 1965 was orchestrated.

Through love and the true understanding of the problems, the gang truce helped both races see that the problems are the same for both cultures. The result was momentary peace and although the truce was eventually broken, many in the black community believe by planted infiltrators, this is one of the few gang truces in American history that lasted for a significant amount of time between Mexican and black gangs.

Replica street gangs in South America, London and Canada are a clear sign that America must wake up and see there is a new Civil War in the inner city streets and do something about it. All Americans must understand that the misuse of technology is one reason this gang epidemic is spreading like a cancer which does nothing but bring death and destruction from an illusion based love of your gang affiliation. Coming from the darkness to the light is no easy task, but history shows it can be done. Blacks and browns must realize that WE ARE ONE, a part of the human species which needs the same elements to survive. Dr. Cheikh Anta Diop, the great historian, once said, "The brains frontal lobe of all man is the same." No longer is it OK to sit back and do nothing about the things that separate one race from the next. No one with a clear conscious wants their children to suffer from a Civil War which is really an offspring of delusional thinking which will continue to reciprocate if we as Americans don't do something about it now.

- Steve Johnson

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

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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Any inquiries for advertisements or Hilltopics should be directed to

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Now in its 84th year, *The Hilltop* is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, *The Hilltop* is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of the *The Hilltop* Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

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.

"Calling all men and women Beacon Liturgical Dance Ministry invites you to:

Open Call Sept. 19th 12-2pm Cook Hall

Sept. 20th 2-4pm Blackburn"

Golden Key International Honour Society First General Body Meeting Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 6pm Douglass Hall Rm 116

RHYTHM REMINDER: Tickets Are NOW On Sale

International Showcase Gospel Show Poetry Cipher Comedy Show Celebrity Basketball Game Fashion Show 1 & 2 R&B Show Step Show

STOP BY THE CRAMTON BOX OFFICE TODAY or VISIT TICKETMASTER.COM

American Marketing Association First General Body Meeting Wednesday September 16 at 6pm School of Business Room 218 All majors are welcome!

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

Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity, Zeta Phi Chapter Rush Week 2009 A Night with the Bruhs Tonight 7:25 p.m. Blackburn Rec Center

WANT TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE BISON YEARBOOK? POSITIONS OPEN FOR: WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE STARTING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 IN BISON YEARBOOK OFFICE APPLICATIONS DUE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 AT 5:00PM NO EXCEPTIONS!

Happy Birthday to Jamie!!!! My fabulous Virgo



twin!!! Happy 21st!!!

GOLDEN GIRLS!!!

The Ladies of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated invite you to join us in a movie night for "I Can Do Bad All by Myself" Thursday, September 17 Meet @ the U Street Metro Stop Promptly at 6:22pm

Fall Scholarship Fair – Meet national representatives from major scholarships/fellowships like Rhodes and Fulbright. Blackburn Ballroom 9/22/09 10AM-2PM

Street Bldnaz Mentor Program Final Interest Meeting TODAY @ 7pm Douglass 143

Top Reasons to Join Heads Up Co-lead a classroom of 10 to 15 students

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Alpha Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Delta Week 2009

The Bridge: Leveraging Obstacles and Visioning our Entitlement

Call to Chapel

Sunday, September 20, 2009

Cramton Auditorium 11:00am

The Hidden Dollar: Effecting Change Through Economic Stability

Monday, September 21, 2009

Blackburn Digital Auditorium 7:00pm

Reach: Extending Ourselves to Provide for Others

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Blackburn Digital Auditorium 7:00pm

Crème de la Crème: Exuding Proper Etiquette in the Realm of Academia

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Blackburn Ballroom 7:00pm

Defense Mechanisms: Strengthening Our Minds and Protecting Our Bodies

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Burr Gym 7:00pm

In the Shadows: Abducted, Alone and Unaware

Friday, September 25, 2009

Blackburn Digital Auditorium 7:00pm

