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WEATHER

77
69
Tomorrow: 82
69

Established
1924

THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 93, NO.21

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Tuesday's Notebook**BREAKING NEWS**

FIVE ARE DEAD IN THE GEORGIA FLOODING DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER. THE GOVERNOR HAS DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY.

METRO

READ ABOUT A WOMAN WHO DIED FROM CERVICAL CANCER AND THE ORGANIZATION IN HER NAME.

LIFE & STYLE

READ ABOUT THE TRUTH BEHIND HOROSCOPES AND WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME AN ASTROLOGER.

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Program Combats Myths, 'Miseducation' About Greeks

BY ASHLEY JOHNSON-ALFORD
Staff Writer

To dispel the myths about the purpose of being divine, the nine Black Greek Lettered Organizations (BGLOs) participated in a program entitled "The MisEducation of the Black Greek: Rites of Passage," in an effort to return to the legacy deeply rooted in Howard University.

"Five of the nine Divine Nine Greek Organizations were founded here on this campus," said Rasheed Ali Cromwell, employee of the Harbor Institute. "There are certain things [on this campus] that are rooted in the foundation and history of this university. [Greek] organizations need to do more than step, stomp, stroll and hop."

Cromwell, a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., spoke before the Howard community Monday night to present the history and development of the BGLOs. According to Cromwell, the organizations are slowly moving away from the roots of their history.

Appalled at the overshadowing of service and honorary organizations to the Divine Nine organizations due to the modern-day membership intake processes, Cromwell

expanded on the historical purpose of the Divine Nine organizations.

He gave dates, statistics and figures to give the gathered audience a sense of the historical significance of the organizations that go beyond the letters. Cromwell said that on May 10, 1930, the nine BGLOs, to which every prominent leader and respectable activist belonged, collectively formed the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) on Howard's campus.

Cromwell invoked the name of Martin Luther King, Jr., member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Ralph Abernathy, member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; and Shirley Chisholm, member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

"They portrayed the brotherhood and the unity. There was an unmistakable bond there. It made them powerful," Cromwell said.

Although Cromwell was able to take pride in the legacy of the past, he questioned the direction of the future asking about Gov. Duval Patrick (D-Mass.) and President Barack Obama. Cromwell questioned the crowd asking, "by being so exclusive during your membership intake, what if these are the types of people you are overlooking?"



Okoyomi Sodunke - Staff Photographer
Rasheed Ali Cromwell spoke about the importance of renewing the legacy of Greek organizations.

"The focuses of our organizations are thrown off. We are focusing on who looks good, not who is smart and will make a difference in our organization," he said. "Organizations have to think about who they are letting through. These are the same people you used

> See GREEK, page 3



Damari Childs, 6, enjoys an icy treat at the annual Black L.U.V. Festival last weekend. See Metro, page 5 for a full story.



Chuck Kennedy - McClatchy Newspapers
President Barack Obama is set to meet with the heads of Israel and Palestine to better foreign relations.

President Obama Meets With Middle Eastern Leaders

BY MARQUIS H. BARNETT
Nation & World Editor

Today, President Barack Obama will meet separately with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in an effort to improve foreign relations in the Middle East.

The talks come after a series of failed reconciliation attempts on behalf of the two nations as well as the United States, including a failed attempt by former senator, George Mitchell (D-Maine), who completed a Middle East envoy last week.

The meetings are part of a week filled with international relations as the president works with the United Nations in New York and Pittsburgh.

Once those meetings are completed, the president will have a meeting combined with both officials, a feat that no one has been able to accomplish until now.

"It is important for the president to host talks abroad in order to increase foreign policies," said Lorenzo Morris, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Political Science.

Morris also said that these

talks are good ways to establish a world reputation of forceful and effective leadership in the Obama administration.

Sophomore political science major, Jon Michael Washington, said the United States has vested an interest in the future of these two countries.

He also who thinks it is important for the president to take an active stand in between Palestine and Israel. "What goes on over there greatly impacts the reality of the America we live in today."

Not everyone is as enthusiastic about the president's efforts. He has come under fire recently, as there are many people who do not agree that he should intervene overseas.

"If President Obama is going over there to help find a solution so that both countries will benefit, then I think he should go," said Dinah Pena, a senior sports medicine major.

"But if he's going with some sort of bias for whatever reason, for either country, then he would probably be doing more damage than good for the simple fact that it would make the U.S. look like we're picking on another Middle Eastern country."

Environmentalists Ask Drivers to 'Un-Car for a Day'

BY AMIRAH BEY
Contributing Writer

"I don't care how you get here just - get here if you can," sang Oleta Adams in a record released in 1998, entitled "Get Here." Unfortunately, many environmentalists don't share her same sentiment. They would prefer you simply take the bus.

Today marks World Car Free Day, when events promoting the use of public transportation and bikes will take place all around the world.

Washington, D.C. will get involved in Car Free Day for the third year, through the efforts of Commuter Connections, a group that promotes the use of public transportation, vanpooling, carpooling, bicycling, walking and even teleworking, or working from home, to save energy according to

Nick Ramfos, director of the organization.

For those who must attend their actual jobsite to complete their work, there is also the option of traveling "car-lite."

"Folks get a little antsy when you talk about leaving their cars at home," said Ramfos. "Car-Lite comes in the form of carpooling, vanpooling or park-and-rides."

Not everyone is open and accepting of the car-lite concept.

"That would be ok for people who live and work in D.C., but I live in D.C. and work in Baltimore," said Kimberly Bunting, a junior biology major. "However, I probably won't drive that day, because I don't have to work."

Danielle King, a junior nursing major and off-campus resident, said she might use public transportation.

"It will help the environ-

ment, not to mention, the parking tickets and feeding the meters can get pretty expensive," King said.

The World Carfree Network, the most popular in Europe, is the organization that spread the word internationally about Carfree Day.

In Toronto, a 2007 Carfree event called, "Streets are for People: The Revolution Will Not Be Motorized," included the takeover of Queens Street, one of the city's busiest, said Sara Stout, representative of World Carfree Network USA. The takeover consisted of a punk band, a local hair salon with a waiting lounge, and a piano plunked in the middle of the road.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., as a part of the Carfree day festivities, 7th and F Streets will be blocked off. A visit to Carfreemetro.com lists all the events and activities for the day. Workshops on green living and affordable fuel options will ed-



Faraday Ours - Photo Editor
For World Car Free Day, drivers are asked to use other methods to get around.

ucate attendees, while a yoga class held in the middle of the street will relax them.

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UnderGrad Transition Responsibility



BY VICTORIA KIRBY
Contributing Columnist

In undergrad, I had one colleague with a one-year-old daughter, a married friend and friends who worked to pay the bills for their entire family back home. However, these cases were few and far between. My first year in graduate school things have changed drastically.

When I entered Howard University as a freshman, I was open to all possibilities. I could attend a conference if I wanted to, take a last minute trip to New York City or back home, leave the country and I could have afforded to take an unpaid internship.

Now, I am in a committed relationship with the person that I will undoubtedly spend the rest of my life with. We have a puppy that takes up a lot of our finances, and we send money home to take care of ailing relatives. I can't just take off and go wherever I want to because I have another person to consider. I work, go to class, volunteer and have recently started a business.

I think I have it pretty tough until I sit in class and listen to the stories of other graduate students. Some of them have children, work two full-time jobs and are the sole bread winners in their families. In undergrad, a person with these responsibilities was an exception; in graduate school it appears to be the rule.

I have a deeper appreciation for those I went to school with who dealt with these responsibilities in undergrad. I wonder how they managed to support themselves and their families off of the small refund check that they may have received from federal aid. I wonder how they afforded the rising costs of groceries, health care and energy bills.

I ask these questions in light of the Advocacy Day the Howard community is hosting in favor of health care reform. As a University community, current students, alumni, staff, administrators and friends, we are meeting with our congressional representatives to discuss why it is so important.

It is important for the few undergraduates and many graduate students who are silently struggling to make ends meet in order to receive their education. Many of them rely solely on student insurance to provide for their health care needs. A public option would give them another option that would stay with their families even after they graduated and offer protection for their young children in the case of an emergency.

The issues we have as graduate students are not unique to our population; we all have different forms of responsibility. One responsibility is to be a voice for the voiceless.

Young adults are the group most likely to be uninsured. We need to speak up for each other.

Behind every parent in my class is a child who may be one illness or injury away from the emergency room. Health care is a human right and we are all responsible for maintaining it.

Graduate student Victoria Kirby's columns can be found on thehilltoponline.com. Check on the tab "Voices on Campus blog."

Cosby Concerned About Children

BY VICTORIA FORTUNE
Staff Writer

After the "About Our Children" panel ended Sunday evening, Bill Cosby does his duck walk into the green room, takes his seat and utters "ask away."

Q: What did you hope to have accomplished tonight from the forum?

A: That people would hear and be able to connect with what was being said and call other people and watch this. We have to be serious about this so that we can become more powerful to move. To challenge people that love the value of life is very very important.

Q: Why did they choose the Mecca, Howard University, to have this forum?

A: You just answered the question! Well Michelle Bernard, this is her undergraduate school. Like any proud undergraduate, she would pay homage and come to the "Mecca."

Q: What was your education like growing up and how has it affected your life?

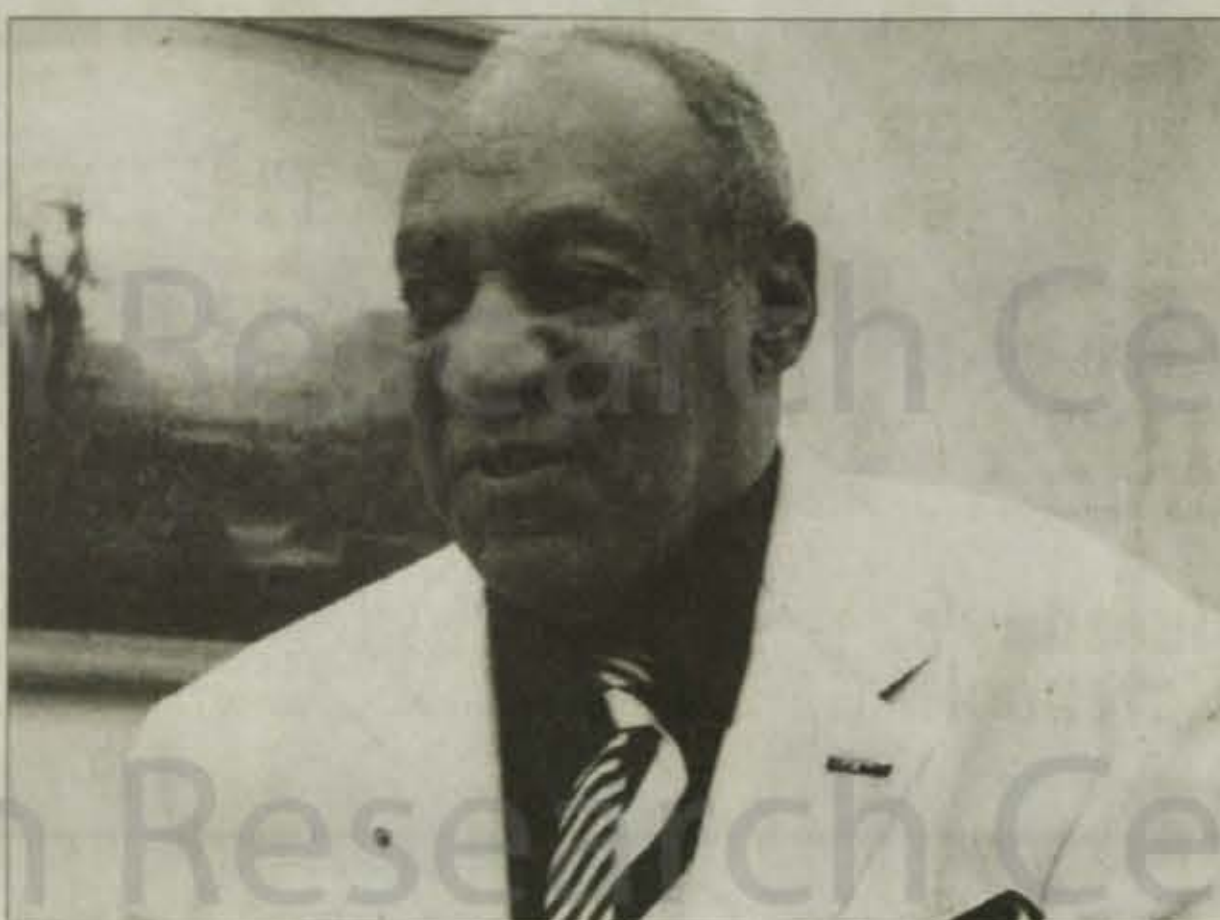
A: It's done nothing for my life. As you can see I'm just as dumb as ever. My education? I was born again at age 19, not through the Lord Jesus Christ, my savior. I'm talking about the reacceptance of learning. The reacceptance that to learn is to have knowledge; is to be able to leave a lower part of the job while thinking about earning a living.

Q: In many of the lower income communities, teenagers are raising children. How do you expect them to be able to change their mentalities when kids are having kids?

A: I don't know.

When you say, how do we expect them to? It almost sounds like we're making excuses for them. People want to be able to earn a living, they

may not know how. This program starts with getting an education. It starts with valuing your life. Valuing the life of your children. People can be taught, and people can get



Zelena Williams - Photo Editor

In a personal interview with philanthropist and actor Bill Cosby, he said that education begins with reaccepting knowledge, learning, and also valuing life.

out of trouble at late ages, you ask any person who is involved in community college. We have to stimulate people; hopefully this program did that. Get rid of inertia.

School of Business Week



Photo courtesy of Christopher Bryant

From left to right: Alexa Morris, Kiara McCoy, Martia Warren, Erika Bakkar, Kyle Hutton, Jordan Randall, Damon Epps are some of the students that make up the School of Business Student Council for this academic year.

Tuesday the 22nd: "Changes"

- Town Hall meeting between the students and the administration within the School of Business; to hear what changes have occurred within the School of Business. The meeting will allow students to voice their opinions about needed improvements and concerns.
- Town Hall meeting in SOB auditorium 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- Reception in Faculty/Student Lounge 8 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday the 23rd: "Day of Grievance"

- Students will have the opportunity to bring forth issues that they have had in the present or past from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the School of Business Lobby.
- 100% Initiative Slips will be available for filing complaints.

Wednesday the 23rd: "Election Candidate Debate"

- Special Election Candidates debate and discuss issues in the final speakout and debate.
- School of Business Auditorium 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Wednesday the 23rd: "Business Etiquette" Co-Sponsor: Alpha Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

- Informative etiquette session in Blackburn Ballroom 7 p.m.

Thursday the 24th: "Stop the Cheating"

- Students will pledge their integrity in regards to cheating and plagiarism.
- School of Business Lobby 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Alumna Helps Students

Michelle Bernard, Howard University alumna and CEO of Independent Women's Forum, chats with *The Hilltop* about what inspired her to host a forum on education and parenting that was four years in the making.

Q: What is the message you hope to convey tonight?

A: I want people to think back on history and realize that there is truly nothing that individuals can't do. I always tell people if Frederick Douglass could escape slavery and learn how to read and write and graduate from Harvard, there is nothing in our present-day life experiences that any of us cannot overcome. A lot of times we sit down and we hear people talk about what's wrong with the American government system, but we can no longer afford to just sit back and let those be roadblocks. We have to knock the roadblocks down or go around it, but we have got to move forward.

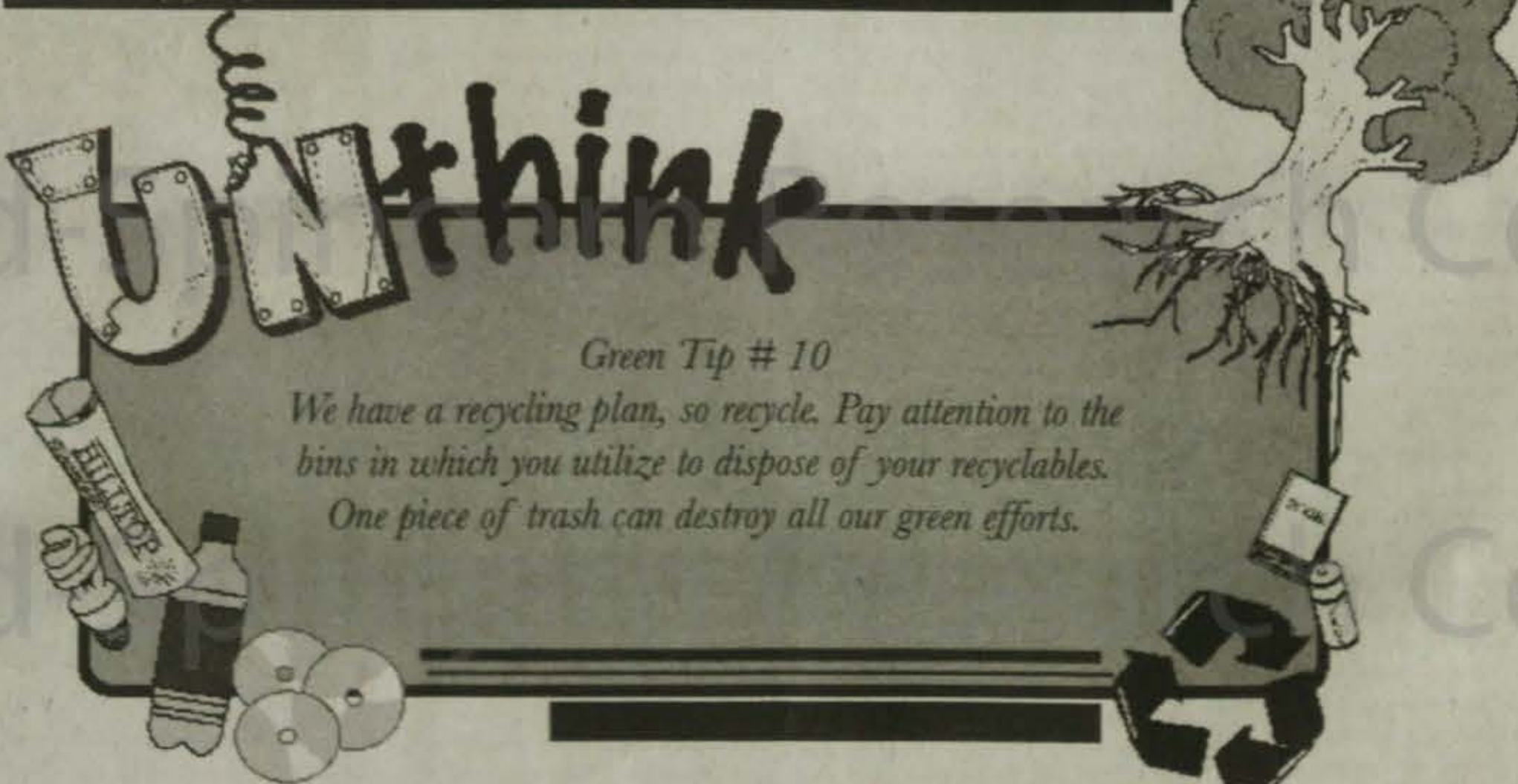
Q: Why did you all choose Howard to host this forum, instead of going out to the public school districts, where many of the lower income parents reside?

A: I chose Howard because I've been working on this for four years. The way that the idea was conceived was when the nation was celebrating the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*. I looked back and I was driving around some neighborhoods here in Washington, and I was thinking, "What on earth would Thurgood Marshall think, if he were alive to see the state of K-12 education in this country? What would he think if he saw that a lot of our school systems are so horrific that we are closer now than we were 50 years ago to creating a permanent underclass of poor whites, blacks, and Hispanics. By going to a university system, you are automatically giving children something to look up to."

Her concerns for the freshmen and sophomore are different. She said the upperclassmen need to know if they qualify, but underclassmen need to know how to qualify.

According to Johnson, foundations look for four key components when comparing applications. They look for grades, community service, leadership and activities.

"When people think of leadership, they automatically assume that they have to hold a presidency or be an officer, but that is not it," Johnson said. "Representatives are looking for people who demonstrate a type of leadership."



Truth v. Mythology For Greeks at HU

continued from FRONT GREEK

to talk to, but you walk by now that you're a member [of a Greek organization]. We cannot afford to walk by Barack Obama."

Cromwell advised the organizations in attendance to refocus on the legacy that has ensured their preservation and recommit to it. He said that BGLOs must be leaders in their communities and a new focus is needed.

"Fraternalities and sororities are founded on brother and sisterhood and that is being overshadowed by the stepping,

hazing and partying," said Jamila Best, member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Junior marketing major, Brittany Williams, believes that this wake-up call was just what Howard needed.

"I was truly enlightened," she said. "I love that we are getting back to our roots and refocusing on the redevelopment of the Divine Nine. We had lost sight for a moment, and we lost ourselves. I am glad that this is informing the Class of 2013 so that they are clear on the purpose of Greek organizations."

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Miller & Weaver



E. Ethelbert Miller



Afaa Michael Weaver

Poems and Jumpshots

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The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address <http://www.thehilltoponline.com/>. The page features the "College Media Network" logo at the top. Below it is a large black rectangular area. The main masthead reads "THE HILLTOP" in large, bold letters, with "The Daily Student Voice of Howard University" underneath. To the left of the masthead is a graphic of a clock tower and the text "Established 1924". Below the masthead are two tabs: "CAMPUS" and "NATION & WORLD". A navigation bar at the bottom includes links: "About the Hilltop", "Advertising", "Student Voices", and "Voices On Campus". A large photo of five students is displayed, with a small inset photo of a student in the bottom right corner.

New Ford Technology Monitors Teen Drivers

BY JASON J. CLARK
Contributing Writer

To a 17 or 18-year-old high school student, a license and a car equals one thing, freedom. The chance to go where they want and cruise along to their music all without the watchful eye of their parents. Senior broadcast journalism major, Steve Knox, remembers there was nothing better than hopping into his car after playing in a Friday night football game and cruising.

"Man those were the days back then," Knox said. "Just pop in some Kanye or Common, turn it up and you're good to go."

After months, or a year depending on having to drive with their parents with a learner's permit, many teens feel that when they finally get their license it's a chance to relax and let loose.

"My mom would be in the passenger side tense as ever when I drove," Knox said. "If I got close to a car she'd yell, went over the speed limit she'd yell. If the radio was just a tad too loud she'd yell."

Ford Motors has developed a product looking to ease the fears parents face when it comes to giving their teen the keys to the car. The innovation is called the MyKey. The key will allow parents to limit the speed of the car and volume of the radio to encourage teens to drive safer and improve fuel efficiency.

The system allows the owner of the car to program any key through the vehicle message center. When the MyKey is put into the ignition the car reads a transponder chip in the key and certain default driving modes are enabled depending on the settings.

"Say I want to turn on



McCarthy Tribune

MyKey, a new technology by Ford Motor Company, offers parents of new teen drivers comfort and allows them to set speed limits and radio volume.

MyKey, and I want to make sure my son or daughter's buckled up; If they're not, the radio won't operate," said Ford's safety director and one of the creators of MyKey, Andrew Sarkisian.

Along with the radio not working, the "Beltminder Chime" will go off for six seconds every minute and a message, "Buckle Up to Unmute Radio," will display on the instrument cluster until the seat belt is hooked up. Other features

include an earlier low fuel warning at 75 miles to empty rather than the standard 50 and car features such as Park Aid and BLISTM (Blind Spot Information System) cannot be deactivated. One of the features being stressed to parents is the ability to limit the top speed of the car.

"It has a maximum top speed that you can turn on to the vehicle," Sarkisian said. "It's a fairly high one, but then there's also speed alerts, so you can have reminders about

watching your speed, as well."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has found that teens are more likely to take risks like not wearing their seat belt or speeding. Speeding happens to be a contributing factor in 30 percent of all fatal crashes.

Lamont Marcus, a senior audio production major, sees that it is a good safety feature but he would feel restricted if his parents had done that to him.

"It could create a false sense of security," Marcus said. "There are risks with driving every time you get on the road no matter how old you are and sometimes things just happen."

The MyKey feature will be standard on the 2010 Ford Focus and will also be standard on Ford's lowest-priced vehicle the Ford Focus. It will soon spread to many other Ford, Lincoln and Mercury models.

quirky news



uSocial Allows Customers to Buy Friends

BY ALEXIS K. BARNES
Business & Technology Editor

It is sometimes hard to make friends, but at Howard, with its plethora of clubs and organizations, students are bound to find something in common with some of their peers.

Facebook, the social networking site popular on campus, makes the process even easier—just click friend request, and your friend count increases.

For less than \$200, uSocial, an Australian marketing company, will sell you 1,000 Facebook friends.

Facebook packages start at 1,000 friends up to 10,000 friends at costs ranging from \$177 to \$1,167.

Originally established for

businesses and celebrities, uSocial creator, 24-year-old Leon Hill, said these "friends" are all potential customers.

Hill said that the company is not spamming and that friends and fans can always change their minds and opt out of the program whenever they want.

Gibran Mills, senior management major, thinks uSocial is innovative and smart, but does not agree with its execution.

"It's a smart idea," he said, "but I feel it's a breach of business ethics on behalf of companies that legitimately actively seek new customers."

Targeted manually, potential friends have interests in the business making the friend request. For example, an athlete would receive

requests from athletic apparel companies.

uSocial logs into a client's Facebook profile and sends out mass tailored friend requests; potential friends are not notified that uSocial is working on behalf of the company.

Businesses use uSocial as a cheaper and more effective means of exposure as opposed to online ads and traditional mediums of advertising, but Facebook officials say the operation is violation of Facebook user terms.

"Buying and selling of actions that are supposed to be taken by a user are certainly, we would argue, not authentic," said Facebook spokesman Barry Schnitt.

He said giving anyone else access to your Facebook account

and making friend requests on behalf of others goes against the site's policies, as it makes Facebook less secure, and any Facebook users found sharing their passwords with third parties could have their accounts permanently disabled.

Senior chemical engineering major, Eric Taylor, remains wary when accepting friend requests on Facebook, and tries to only add users in the Howard network if they are unknown.

"I think uSocial is going against the point of Facebook, but I understand this marketing strategy," he said. "Social networking sites are a good way to reach potential customers."

The Melbourne, Australia-based company was established in 2008 when Hill used the company

to sell votes on the news site Digg.com.

A client could raise their position on the site by buying 100 votes for almost \$100 or 1,000 for almost \$700.

Diggs shut down uSocial on their site, but Hill said he had too many clients to keep up with demand and will relaunch once he's completed software for automated voting.

"All we do is send them a welcome message or friend request from the client. If they decide to go ahead and add that person as a friend or a fan then they will; if not, then they won't," Hill told Australian media.

New App. Tracks Swine Flu

Outbreak Near Me, a new iPhone application, helps users track nearby outbreaks of the H1N1 (swine flu) virus.

Researchers at the Boston Children's Hospital and MIT, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, debuted the software in early September and used the Global Positioning System and maps to pinpoint illnesses in an area and keep people informed about how diseases spread.

Users can be notified when a sick person enters their specified area.

"We aim to empower citizens in the cause of public health, not only by providing ready access to real-time information, but also by encouraging them to contribute their own knowledge, expertise and observations," said HealthMap co-founder Clark Freifeld, a Ph.D. student at the MIT Media Lab.

Pictures of sick people and



McCarthy Newspapers

A new application can help iPhone users detect H1N1 (swine flu) outbreaks.

suspect locations can also be uploaded to the application to raise awareness.

Senior legal communications major and Apple iPhone owner, Isaiah Adams, thinks the application is unique but excessive.

"I love my phone, but Apple

makes way too many apps for so many different things and many are unnecessary," he said. "I think this is another one of those."

—Compiled by Alexis K. Barnes,
Business & Technology Editor

Know some quirky business news?

Does your roommate have their own business?

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Email:

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Sixth grade girls in D.C. are required to have the HPV vaccine administered, but they can opt out if they feel the vaccine is dangerous or unnecessary.

Parents Opt Out Of HPV Vaccination

BY BRITTANY JACOB
Contributing Writer

For Erica Cole, it was an easy option to opt out of the required human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for her 10-year-old daughter.

"It hasn't been out long enough," Cole said as she routinely stands and waits outside for her daughter after school.

More parents agreed that their children would not be getting this vaccination, mostly because their daughters were not sexually active at their young age.

Sixth grade girls entering D.C. public and private schools are required to either get a vaccination that consists of three parts or sign an opt out form. The vaccination is designed to protect young girls from HPV, which could possibly cause genital warts and even cervical cancer in the future.

The vaccine is advertised as Gardasil and is manufactured by Merck Pharmaceutical Co., who promotes the vaccination as protection against cervical cancer.

"It is the wrong approach; it sends a false message to the girls," said Richard Urban, cofounder of ULTRA Teen Choice, a group that promotes abstinence. "Young girls should simply abstain from sex."

According to Urban, his solution is not giving out condoms or even administering the vaccination, but the principle of abstinence

and the parent involvement and accountability. He stressed being faithful in monogamous relationships.

His organization gears towards educating the youth on abstinence before marriage, peer counseling and how to deal with peer pressure, and also accountability. They work and volunteer with after school programs, churches and non-profits.

D.C. council members voted for the vaccination; the bill was co-sponsored by David Catania and Mary Cheh.

Urban and his organization have been banned from D.C. public schools. They are still promoting their mission.

There is now a pending class action lawsuit. There have been 42 deaths as of June 16 of this year and a number of cases of paralysis. Many people and parents are against the requirement for HPV in D.C. schools.

"I am not comfortable; it is too new and needs more study," said Janet Myers, the mother of a sixth grade girl.

Some parents are having their children vaccinated without enough "scrutiny" of its effects.

There is the option to opt out, but some students may still receive the vaccination because parents are unaware or uneducated.

Many Walk For Tia's Way, Cervical Cancer

BY ALEXA MURRAY
Contributing Writer

Family and friends share thoughts of Tia, a young 27-year-old woman diagnosed with stage IV cervical cancer in 2007, on the Tia's Way organization Web site. In September of 2008, Tia died from the disease. According to Tia's Way, she was told for many years that she suffered from fibroid tumors, only to find out she really had cervical cancer.

On Sept. 19 they, along with many others, gathered at Fort Dupont Park, 3600 F St. SE, to honor Tia's life by hosting a 5k walk to raise awareness of cervical cancer and to assist those in treatment. Tia's Way, an organization that shares information about cervical cancer and preventative methods like Gardasil, presented a day of memories and experiences with those affected by cancer.

"She would constantly ask me if she dies would I ever regret going to Howard, and I would always say no because my sister went here and I wanted to be with her," said Will Thomas speaking of his mother, Rosalind Jacobs, who died from chemotherapy because of her liver.

"I feel like I spent a great amount of time with her in my life so I was not scared to leave, I just prayed for her."

Thomas, however, will utilize one message left by her. "Be accountable for all you do, and always try to predict what will happen so you have a general idea of the path you are going down."

Every year more than 11,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer. While many women in the early stages have a high chance of survival, an estimated 4,000 women die from it each year, according to the National Cancer Institute.

"There are so many people dealing with cancer that I enjoy when people get together and come up with ideas of how we could solve this issue, by creating and sharing more preventative methods," said Patrice Lewis, who

joined the cervical cancer walk.

"So many people in my family, my cousin, father and uncle, have passed away from cancer, that I felt that this was important for me to join. I want young women to realize that the decisions they make in life are risky, and whether with Gardasil or no preventative method at all, they should make an informed decision because it is their life at stake."

"If you get regular pap tests and get the follow-up, early detection and treatment is possible," said Linda Miller, Cervical Cancer Campaign specialist of the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation. "The majority of women who have advanced cervical cancer have either not had the pap test in at least five years, had an aggressive strain of cancer or did not do a follow-up appointment."

Along with pap tests, a new human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, Gardasil, has been made available to the public.

"The HPV vaccine protects against two strains of HPV that cause 70 percent of all cervical cancer, so there is still that 30 percent that can still cause cervical cancer, so it is important for women to keep up with their pap test," Miller said.

With at least 70 percent of sexually active people having HPV in their lifetime, and the most common age group being late teens and early 20s, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this becomes a problem for young people.

"I think when people get to a certain point in their life they stop paying attention to their health, but it is up to the younger generations to learn from our elders' mistakes and take control of our lives," said Johnny Cox who lost his grandmother, Bessie Cox, to cancer this year.

Every year, cervical cancer takes the lives of many women, leaving numerous people affected. On Sept. 19, Tia's Way spread awareness of cervical cancer to try to prevent occurrences of it.

Metro Briefs

Car Free Day Promotes Buses, Walking, Trains

Today is World Car Free Day and drivers are encouraged to leave their vehicles at home and instead utilize public transportation, walking or bicycling.

On this day, all are asked to disregard their cars for a day and instead choose an alternative environmentally friendly method of getting to work, school, shopping, etc.

In an effort to promote this environmental cause, Madame Tussaud's wax museum is offering discounts to Metro riders. By showing a Metro SmarTrip card upon entry, customers can receive a \$5 discount until Sunday.

First Lady Present At New Farmers Market Opening

The grand opening of Vermont Avenue's farmers market was marked by First Lady Michelle Obama's presence. Located a few blocks from the White House, the Freshfarm Markets establishment features fresh fruits, vegetables and other produce.

Obama spoke to the crowd of 300 shoppers about the importance of a healthy diet. She emphasized how beneficial it is to eat fresh fruits and vegetables daily in order to have a productive and energetic day.

The newly opened market is located on Vermont Avenue, between H and I Streets. Shoppers will find fresh locally grown tomatoes, eggs, potatoes, cheese and milk.

Anacostia Street

Car Work Begins, Causes Delays

The D.C. Department of Transportation has begun work to install a streetcar line in Anacostia. In Southeast, workers started to lay the tracks for the streetcars, a vision in the works for a while.

Originally, the streetcars were thought to be up and running by the end of this year, but delays have pushed back this date.

The construction of the tracks will cause delays of about five to 10 minutes in the South Capitol Street area. Fifth Sterling Avenue will also be affected by delays.

The streetcars are designed to provide service to areas where Metrorail doesn't operate or extend to and add a sense of aesthetics to the city.

Unemployment Rate Rises to 11.1 Percent

The unemployment rate in D.C. is at its highest since 1983, with 11.1 percent of the population jobless in August. The current rate is up from 10.6 percent in July, according to a report released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In contrast, joblessness has declined in Virginia and stabilized in Maryland. For nearby Virginia, the numbers went from 6.9 percent in July to 6.5 percent in August. Neighboring Maryland has maintained its 7.2 percent unemployment rate since June.

The national unemployment rate is 9.7 percent, which the nation's capital has surpassed. Experts attribute this to the fact that city residents with little or no education opt to work in low paying jobs. Low-wage sectors are more susceptible to downturns and cuts during economic hardship.

—Compiled by
Genet Liksa, Metro Editor

Festival Raises Awareness About Black L.U.V., Issues Within Community

BY SURITIA TAYLOR
Contributing Writer

A mostly Afro-centric crowd lay on the grass and lined the walls in support of the 12th annual Black L.U.V. Festival.

Held on Sunday at Fannie Lou Hamer Park in downtown D.C., the crowds gathered for a worthy cause.

The acronym L.U.V. stands for love, unity and vision, which was well represented throughout the festival.

The main purpose of the festival was to bring awareness to the HIV/AIDS issue, gentrification, political wrongdoing, the environment and other social injustices occurring within the black community.

As poets, speakers and rap artists performed on stage in front of an African-American themed flag and a graffiti decorated billboard that read, "Stop the Violence," the crowd clapped and danced to the music, and chanted "Black Love."

The event had an entertaining yet serious atmosphere. While some came to the festival to enjoy the atmosphere and food, others were in attendance to spread pertinent messages to the black community.

Sawdayah Brownlee, a junior African-American studies major, said she went primarily to spread the word about her organization.

"I came to pass out flyers to recruit young girls for a youth empowerment program in the Kwame Toure society, but overall I really enjoy the festivities, and I love the vendors," she said.

At one point, one of the em-

cees took a moment to talk to the crowd about the importance of testing for HIV, health insurance reform and improved Medicare for all.

The festivities included a kid's village pavilion, complete with face painting, children's books and an obstacle course that required the kids to recycle water bottles.

There were massages, acupuncture, registration for vaccine testing trials, information on legislation to benefit the minority community, HIV/AIDS testing and condom giveaways.

One of the biggest goals of the festival coordinators was to emphasize the importance of HIV/AIDS awareness and testing. The Carl Vogel Center and United Health Care were in attendance providing free HIV testing.

"People haven't been shy about coming to get tested, but not enough people have come. I was told that everyone usually gets tested towards the end, so I guess we will see," said Angela Brown of The Carl Vogel Center of Multidisciplinary and Integrated Health Care.

Her feelings on the lack of people willing to be tested were shared with other outreach personnel. Geno Dunnington assisted with recruiting people for testing.

"The numbers of those getting tested were not as great as they should be based on the severity of the epidemic," said Dunnington, who has been HIV positive for 25 years and has been trying to put HIV/AIDS in the mainstream for a while.

"There needs to be more constant outreach in order to normalize testing, if HIV/AIDS is mainstream, there won't be a stig-



Seen Robinson—Staff Photographer

Celebrations of black love were seen throughout the festival including this couple seen here on stage announcing their upcoming marriage.

ma when it comes to getting testing."

The coordinators of the event would have liked to see more government participation.

"I am disappointed that the largest HIV/AIDS event isn't supported by the city," said Kymone Freeman, the primary coordinator of the event.

As publicist for this year's Black L.U.V. Festival, George Jackson plans on improving the promotion for the event next year.

"We are not necessarily coming up with solutions today, but we want people to be knowledgeable about these issues," Jackson said.

Did you know?

Some of your favorite shows are back on:

Sunday:

- **Simpsons** (FOX 8:00 p.m.)
Premiers Sept. 27
- **The Cleveland Show** *New (FOX 8:30 p.m.)
- **Desperate Housewives** (ABC 9:00 p.m.)
Premieres Sept. 27

Monday:

- **One Tree Hill** (CW 8:00 p.m.)
- **House** (FOX 8:00 p.m.)
- **Gossip Girl** (CW 9:00 p.m.)
- **The Mo'Nique Show** *New (BET 11:00 p.m.)
Premieres Oct. 5

Tuesday:

- **90210** (CW 9:00 p.m.)
- **Melrose Place** *New (CW 9:00 p.m.)
- **The Hills** (MTV 10:00 p.m.)
Premieres Sept. 29
- **The City** (MTV 10:30 p.m.)
Premieres Sept. 29

Wednesday:

- **America's Next Top Model** (CW 8:00 p.m.)
- **So You Think You Can Dance** (FOX 8:00 p.m.)
- **The Beautiful Life** (CW 9:00 p.m.)
- **First In** *New (BET 10:00 p.m.)
Premieres Sept. 30

Thursday:

- **The Vampire Diaries** *New (CW 8:00 p.m.)
- **Grey's Anatomy** (ABC 9:00 p.m.)
Premieres Sept. 24
- **Private Practice** (ABC 10:00 p.m.)
Premieres Oct. 1

Friday:

- **Brothers** *New (FOX 8:00 p.m.)
- **Super Nanny** (ABC 8:00 p.m.)
Premieres Oct. 16
- **Ugly Betty** (ABC 9:00 p.m.)
Premieres Oct. 9

Compiled By Cierra Jones,
Life & Style Editor

Are you on Twitter?

The Hilltop is! Follow us:
www.twitter.com/thehilltop!

You may even get "Tweet of the Week!"

Beyond the Horoscope, Discovering Astrology

BY SURITIA TAYLOR
Contributing Writer

The diligent Virgo reigns until today. If you're a Virgo your element is Earth; your key planet is Mercury; your greatest strength is your ability to focus your attention, and you may want to avoid relationships with a Sagittarius. Where does all this information come from? The often overlooked study of astrology.

Often considered a science, at other times viewed as the practice of predicting, Astrology is the study of cycles. Astrologers use the movement of planets, stars and moons to understand the patterns found in our daily lives. According to the Encyclopedia of Astrology, there are two types of Astrology, heliocentric, which references the sun as the center, and the widely used geocentric astrology, which bases interpretations on calculations of the planetary positions, using earth as the center.

The Babylonians first used astrology, back in 1645 B.C. These practices moved from Greece to Rome, and eventually made its way to the western hemisphere. The validity of Astrology has been debated for centuries.

Horoscopes are the first thing that comes to mind when Astrology is brought up, because it is the most popular use of astrology. Horoscopes are maps of the zodiac circle. Generally, people use it as guidance within their daily lives.

"I look at horoscopes from time to time, but I pay more attention when it comes to how they apply to my relationships," said Shenea Overstreet, a freshman human development major.

Most people don't know about the work that is put into cre-

ating horoscopes. "I never really thought about all that goes into astrology and the process of coming up with horoscopes," said Shandee Burke, a freshman physical therapy major.

When one reads that a person with the sign of a Scorpio is compatible with that of a Pisces and Cancer, or that Virgos are best matched with Taurus and Capricorn, they should know that to discover this, astrologers must first determine the "sidereal" time using the positioning of the sun. Then a table called an astronomical ephemeris must be consulted in order to list locations of different celestial objects. Finally a chart is prepared, and interpreted accordingly, all which can be a time consuming and tedious process.

Astrology involves more than horoscopes. It has been used to determine when to begin planting crops, the severity of storms and for medical purposes.

A majority of professional astrologers are members of astrological associations. The American Federation of Astrologers (AEA) requires an accreditation process.



Astrology, in Webster's dictionary, is defined as "the divination of the supposed influences of the stars and planets on human affairs and terrestrial events by their positions and aspects."

Doubters of this practice have always existed, which is the reason that after thousands of years, the issue of whether or not Astronomy is an area of science is still being debated.

Briana Ford, a junior hospitality management major, said she can find guidance elsewhere. "I don't look at horoscopes at all. I have in the past, but I read daily devotions; they are more inspiring," Ford said.

On the Web site of the AEA, it said, "While accreditation doesn't

necessarily guarantee success, it will go a long way towards helping you avoid the inexperienced, and the untrained."

Even with testing and accreditation processes, as well as, various Astrological associations, there is never a 100 percent guarantee that astrologers will always be successful, or that findings will totally apply to an individual.

Skype Plans Cell Phone, Landline Takeover



Oluyomi Sodunke - Staff Photographer

Skype has become a popular way for people to talk via text messaging, webcam, instant messaging and phone.

BY RONALD TOLSON
Contributing Writer

Skype is a software that allows the world to communicate easily and cost effectively. It is a downloadable software application which allows users to make telephone calls by way of the Internet.

"I love Skype. When my daughter decided to move to Atlanta, I thought oh no my baby is going to leave me. But through the use of Skype, I am able to not only hear her voice, but also able to see her live and in person. Skype is great," said Mrs. Rose-Marry Mixon.

Skype cannot only be used to make Skype-to-Skype voice calls, but Skype users can also call landlines and mobile phones as well. This also means that landlines and mobile numbers can also place calls to Skype users.

"Skype is one of the defining Internet technologies of our era. It's helping people all over the planet connect with each other like never before. It's changing the world," said Josh Silverman, CEO of Skype.

Additional features include video conferencing, voicemail,

instant messaging, texting, faxing and file transfers. These features, along with voice calls, can also be made to international numbers. However, the Skype software does not allow users to dial a country's emergency contact number such as 911 in the U.S. and Canada or Australia's emergency number 000.

Skype was created in July 2004 by Ahti Heinla, Jaan Tallinn and Priit Kasesalu, the same three Estonian programmers who created the peer-to-peer file sharing application Kazaa. Kazaa is one of the largest Internet file sharing applications for songs, videos and pictures.

According to Skype Journal, within a year of its launching, Skype had more than 100 million users of its application. It currently has approximately more than 340 million registered users. In 2008, Skype debuted on the Oprah Show as part of her 10 online interactive sessions to promote her latest book club selection book "A New Earth."

Skype can now be seen as a regular fixture on the Oprah Show. In August following in the steps of Oprah radio, television personality Wendy Williams incorporated

Skype into her show.

"I just so happened to be watching Oprah; I forget the exact topic of the day's show, but all I remember is that she could not stop talking about how much she loved Skype," said Sharon Taylor, a senior public relations major. "Using Skype, Oprah was able to talk to audience members from around the country while they were in their homes watching the show on TV. After the show was over I was like wow, I see what Oprah is talking about; Skype is amazing."

To download the application, all one has to do is go onto its Web site www.skype.com and click on the download Skype now button located on the home page.

The initial software application is free. Skype-to-Skype calls, video calls, instant messaging and file transfers are free as well, while calls placed to landlines and mobile phones incur a fee. Text messages to mobile phones and faxes to landlines also incur a fee. There is also a fee to check your Skype voicemail.

It offers two types of payment plans, either a pay as you go plan through the use of Skype Credit or a monthly unlimited phone call subscription plan. Skype

Credit is a way to pay for Skype features and products that are not free. Once you sign-up for a Skype account, you establish your Skype credit by setting up a balance of prepaid funds paid through the use of your credit cards. There is no minimum, maximum or any fee associated with establishing your Skype credit.

The cost of each phone call depends on where in the world you are calling to, not where you are calling from.

Prices placed to landlines and mobile phones range from \$0.01 to \$3.35 per minute depending on the country. Phone calls placed to U.S. numbers are \$0.21 per minute.

The monthly unlimited subscriptions plan for U.S. and Canada calls are \$2.95 per month. The unlimited subscription to a specific country is \$5.95 per month and unlimited international calls are \$12.95 per month.

Similar to phone calls, the price to send a text message depends on where in the world you are sending it to, not where you're sending it from. There is no monthly subscription with text messages; it is pay as you go. Text messaging rates range from \$0.01 to \$0.08 per text.

To place a video call you will need your own webcam. If you do not have a webcam, Skype offers eight different webcams which range in price from \$16.99 to \$104.00. You can also make a video phone call with a video phone. Skype offers three different video phones which range in price from \$19.99 to \$22.88.

Voicemail is included in any of the three unlimited monthly phone subscriptions. Otherwise, it's just \$6 for three months or \$20 for a full year.

"My job requires me to travel a lot. When traveling outside of the U.S., I am able to use Skype to talk to my employees without having to monitor the length or number of calls made," said Deree Braswell, 43. "I have a monthly subscription so I just pay one flat fee of \$13 for unlimited usage. It really saves me a lot of money."

Skype recently introduced ring tones and an iPhone application to its repertoire.



Controversial ACORN Video Debut Causes a Stir

Scantly clad and escorted by her pimp, a young woman enters the Baltimore headquarters of the Association for Community Organization for Reform Now, ACORN, and seeks advice on opening a brothel, where she's looking to employ underage El Salvadorian girls as prostitutes.

Two ACORN workers listen to her plans, then begin shelling out advice on running the brothel successfully by avoiding detection from federal authorities and using child tax credits to receive federal funding. The remarkable foolishness continues for nearly 10 minutes.

Sound like an amateur filmmaker's attempt at recognition? Maybe a couple hundred hits on YouTube, a few ill-received laughs?

Unfortunately, the production of this highly inappropriate and "informational" video did garner ACORN some unwanted

publicity, substantially damaging the credibility of the organization, and landing the stars of the video in some very hot water.

According to its Web site, ACORN is the nation's largest grass roots community organization of low and middle-income individuals, which works to strengthen community bonds, raise minimum wages, develop

tant list of things to do, it's amazing that a handful of ACORN employees could even find the time to produce such a damaging and offensive video, and effectively work together to further trash the organization's reputation. What's even more amazing is that stars of the video apparently found the production of the video acceptable.

Although the video was created by a small number of ACORN staff, and hopefully doesn't represent the ideals of the organization as a whole, its production and the national attention it's received has substantially wounded the integrity and standing of the group as a whole.

Maybe ACORN staff should choose to shy away from amateur film making for a while, and instead choose to focus on the mission of their organization—community strengthening and development.

Our View:
Grassroots organizations should stay away from amateur film making

affordable housing, provide payday loans and even free tax preparation to its constituents.

However, in the aftermath of the video's prime time debut, the organization is faced with a pending investigation and the denial of federal funding.

With such an impor-

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

If you don't like something, change it.
If you can't change it, change your attitude.

- Maya Angelou

Send your perspectives to
HilltopEditorials@gmail.com
Speak up.

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Fitness
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& Yoga Week**
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**National
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Collegiate
Scholars
First General
Body
Meeting
Tuesday,
September
22
6:15 p.m.
Locke Hall
Room 105
REFRESH-
MENTS
WILL BE
SERVED**

The Ladies of
the
National
Society of
Pershing
Angels
Sorority Inc.
Co G-8-5
Presents:
P/A Week

"Dynamics of
a Dove"

September
21-26, 2009

Girl Talk 101-
Tuesday in
Truth Hall

Getting in
the Groove-
Wednesday in
Truth Hall

Meet P/A'a -
Thursday in
Crandall Hall

Game Night-
Friday in
Truth Hall

Campus
Clean-up-
Saturday meet
yard side of
DGH
All events
begin
at 7 p.m.

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498 - 7991**

The Ladies of
Alpha Chapter,
Delta Sigma
Theta Sorority
Inc. Present

Delta Week
2009

The Bridge:

Leveraging
Obstacles and
Visioning our
Entitlement

September 22,
2009
"Reach:
Extending
Ourselves to
Provide for
Others"

Blackburn
Digital
Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

September 23,
2009
"Crème de la
Crème:
Exuding
Proper
Etiquette in the
Realm of
Academia"

Blackburn
Ballroom 7:00
p.m.

Attire: Cocktail
September 24,
2009
"Defense
Mechanisms:
Strengthening
Our Minds and
Protecting Our
Bodies"

Burr Gym 7:00
p.m.
Attire: Athletic
Wear

September 25,
2009
"In the Shad-
ows: Abducted,
Alone and
Unaware"

Blackburn
Digital
Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

**Male
Pageant
Contestants
Wanted!
The
application
deadline for
School of
Communi-
cations
applicants
has been
extended
until this
Wednesday.
Visit SOC
Council
office more
information.**

**Street
Bianaz:
A New
Kinda of
Hustle
Presents
our 1st
General
Body
Meeting
Sept 23,
2009 at
7 p.m.
Douglass
143**

The Ladies of
Zeta Phi Beta
Sorority, Inc.,
Alpha
Chapter

Presents
Zeta Week
2009:
Regeneration

Tuesday
September 22,
2009

"The New
Face of the
Black Woman:
A Discussion
of Health
Disparities"
7:20p
Blackburn
Forum
Attire:
Business
Casual

**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

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BOX OFFICE
TODAY**

**or
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TICKET
MASTER.COM**

The Lovely
Ladies of
Alpha
Chapter,
Alpha Kappa
Alpha
Sorority, Inc.
invite the How-
ard
community to
the annual
"Care for
AfriKA"
informational.

Wednesday,
September 23,
2009

Location:
Blackburn
Digital
Auditorium

Time: 7:08 p.m.

Attire:
Business

Big Brother, Big

Sister Mentor

Dream Team is

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college

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fitness, music,

and

tutoring. Call

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