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VOLUME 1, NO.1

RGB CONCER

... AND MUCH MORE!

'Making Sure I Don't Miss The Homecoming at Howard'

Who's Homecoming is better than the Real HU's Homecoming? We'll wait. Who's Homecoming is better than the Real HU's Homecoming? Don't worry; we'll wait. Who's Homecoming is better than the Real HU's Homecoming? We'll wait. Who's Homecoming is better than the Real HU's Homecoming? Don't worry; we'll wait. Who's Homecoming is better than the Real HU's Homecoming? We'll wait. Who's Homecoming is better than the Real HU's Homecoming? Don't worry; we'll wait Who's Homecoming in better than the Real HU's tome ing? We'll wait WI . I mee ing is better that the Read HU Homoofing: Den't worry; we'll t. Who Henecoming is here that the sal HU's Homese an We'll wait. Who's Homecome y is better than the Real He's La coming? Don't worry; we'll wait. Who's Homecoming is better than the Real HU's Homecoming? We'll wait. Who's Homecoming is better than the Real HU's Home-

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wait. Who's Homecoming is better than the Real HU's Homecoming? We'll wait. Who's Homecoming is better than the Real HU's Homecoming? Don't worry; we'll wait.

Howard Homecoming 2009

October 17 - October 24

Who's Homecoming is better than the Real HU's Homecoming? We'll wait. Who's Homecoming is better than the Beal HU's Homecoming? Don't corry, we'll wait. Who's Homecoming is petter than the Read Hea's Homecoming? We'll we Who's Homecoming han the Real HU's H con in Don't worry; we'll wait Who's Homeoming is ter than the Reconing? We'll vail the s tomecom-ing better then the Real HU's Holecomin Don't worry; we'll wit. When s Homecoming is better the Real HU's Homecoming? We'll wait. Who's Homecoming is better than the Real HU's Homecoming? Don't worry; we'll wait.

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Homecoming Economics 101

The current state of the United States economy has stifled the lases both socially and financially for many Americans. Howard students are not immune to the effects of the recession and, for some, Homecoming 2009 will be evidence of first-hand experience in today's tough economy. Here's what students had to say

Tickets Purchased: 5

Did your Homecoming spending change in the economic recession?

"Yes, it did. I was a lot more aware of what events were more important to go to, and what events I wanted to spend my money on."

Michael Roy, Sophomore legal comm.



Tickets Purchased: 1

Did your Homecoming spending change in the economic recession? "Yes and no ... I feel like the

money that I would have spent on other events could be used for more important things."

Erika Lawrence, Sophomore journalism



Tickets Purchased: 4

Did your Homecoming spending change in the economic recession?

"No. It didn't change my spending. I bought the tackets I did with money that I saved from the summer."

> David Glover, Second-year architecture



Tickets Purchased: 4

Did your Homecoming spending change in the economic recession? "I wasn't thinking of the recession when I was buying my tickets but I guess it did because I'm broke now. And I didn't even buy all the tackets I wanted to!"

> Adiana Wilmot. Sophomore biology



Crystal J. Allen, Editor-in-Chief

Brian Cox, Homecoming Treasurer

So, we think WE spend a lot of money? The Hilltop sat down with the Howard Homecoming Steering Committee treasurer, Brian Cox, to break down a little Homecoming 101: The Basics - from a staff perspective, of course.

TH: What's the budget like?

BC: The budget varies each year. We generally work with about \$500,000 to \$1 million including expenses, revenues and promotions.

TH: How much did you all have to work with this year?

BC: Well, we added two shows [the Poetry Cipher and the International Showcase], so we did spend more than last year's committee. However, we are aware of the economy - all together, we had about \$750,000 to work with.

TH: How do you all get the money?

BC: Every coordinator leight altogether needs to vaise at least \$5,000 for their shows. Kai [Lawson, this] year's Tardfest coordinator ... and Dionne [Vaughn, this year's Gospel Show coordinator | raised well their expectations. We also get money from sponsors and the university, as well as ticket sales.

TH: How is the budget broken down?

BC: The budget is broken down into four parts: ticket sales, [Office of] Student Activities allocation, revenue from the previous year and sponsorship.

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Perspective Staff

Student Perspective



PAST: SATURDAY & SUNDAY

International Showcase

DANCE DE LA CADENCE

B9: CRYSTAL J. ALLEN & CAMILLE AUGUSTIN, HILLTOP STAFF

Dance de la Cadence brought students to their feet – literally – the whole way through. It was a party, to say the least, providing students with just a little better understanding of what it truly means to be "international."

Hosted by broadcast journalism major and HU MC Jae Murphy, the show featured performances from "Beat Ya Feet Kings" from the show, MTV's America Best Dance Crew, "Capoeira Males Mestre Curisco," a Brazilian dance group that performed Brazilian flight dancing, and Jamaican reggae artist Tony Matterhorn.

The show also featured a dance off to Beyonce's "Single Ladies," and a "Rep Your Coast" competition which gave students the opportunity to win free tickets to the Step Show this Saturday.

According to showcase coordinator Mikael LaRoche, this year is the first year funds were available for the event. The 2008 Homecoming Steering Committee held a small international venue last year, but nothing on this scale has happened before during Homecoming, he said.

Stephen Miller - Howard Homecoming Steering Committee Mikael Laroche, a senior interior design major from Trinidad, serves as this year's International Showcase coordinator.

The showcase was well-received among students. It has definitely become a part of the Howard tradition.

HE IS ... THE BEAT TO MY HEART

THE HILLTOP

Gospel Show

BY: CAMILLE AUGUSTIN, STAFF WRITER

© Moorland-Sping

The Howard University Gospel Choir, along with headliner Kurt Carr and the Kurt Carr singers and Jessica Reedy of BET's "Sunday's Best" paid tribute to the late Reverend Timothy Wright at the Homecoming Gospel Show, "He is...the Beat to My Heart." Gospel comedian Small Fire was the show's host.

Coordinator of the event Dionne Vaughn, senior public relations major, entrepreneurship minor, said that she chose someone to headline the show that touches young and old people. "I think it will be a good mix of people from Howard University and the D.C. community," said Vaughn. She hoped for this year's show to be just as good – if not better – than last year's show. She said her purpose was to have students leave the event with knowing that without God, nothing would be possible. "This will be a celebration of his work," Vaughn said before the show.

"I didn't start to listen to gospel music until over the summer," said Joy Carte, a junior biology major who said she was "really excited to attend because I love Kurt Carr and I hope to be blessed by the show." Carter said she enjoys Carr's music.

Vaughn is proud that her vision has came to life and hopes to show students that "if you know that your dreams are possible and you can do anything you set your heart on."

Stephen Miller - Howard Homecoming Steering Committee Dionne Vaughn, a senior public relations major, is this year's Gospel Show coordinator.

PAST: MONDAY 6 TUESDAY

PROSIDY: VESSELS OF VOICE

B9: JESSICA LEWIS, CAMPUS EDITOR

The rhythm has not flowed from the vessels of voice since 2005 when the first and until Monday last Poetry Cipher occurred. The Hilltop proclaimed the first cipher in 2005 entitled "Poetic Evolution" a hit, but students said Monday that the return did not miss the mark with artists such as Shihan, Joshua Bennett and Sonja Sohn.

Howard's first "Poetic Evolution" was on Monday, Oct. 17, 2005 featuring prosodists Georgia Me and Messiah Ramkissoon. Those same poets brought the "Prosody" back to campus 4 years and two days later under the coordination of senior acting major Joshua Nelson.

The use of poetic melody has been used for centuries to ease the pain of everyday life. According to a Hilltop article written in 2005, Georgia Me said, "Yes, I am from the hood and I am blessed because of it." In 2009, she used her poetry to embody the tribulations endured while living in the "hood."

Nelson said he planned the cipher "Prosody: Vessels of Voice" with the intention of creating something unique and intricate that would thrive in years to come. He said, "Certain art forms are starting to grow and progress."

Stephen Miller - Howard Homecoming Steering Committee

Joshua Nelson, a senior acting major, is this year's Poetry Cipher coordinator. This is the first year, since 2005, that the cipher will take place.

For three hours, the audience at the Cipher laughed, sat on the edges of their seats or stood in awe at the lyrical capabilities of the artists onstage.

Comedy Show

LAUGH OUT LOUD

BY: CRYSTAL J. ALLEN & CAMILLE AUGUSTIN, HILLTOP STAFF

Laugh Out Loud left many of us in tears.

Hosted by comedienne B. Phlat, the show featured five other acts, including headliner Gary Owen, Big Sean Larkins, Cocoa Brown, Howard alumna Aminah Murphy and Lil' Duval, who was added to the roster just a few days before the day of the show.

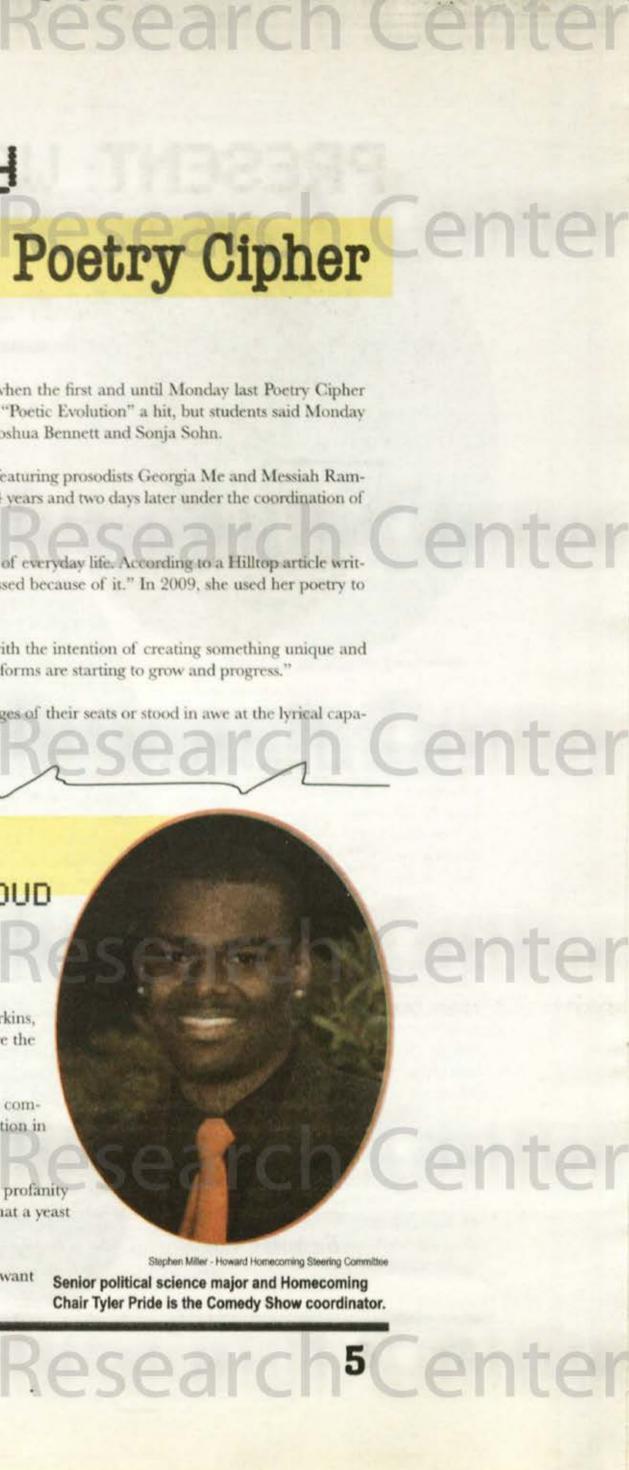
The comedians pushed it to the limit, often being told to "tone it down" by university officials, but still kept the jokes coming. B. Phlat said, "If you're going to have a smoker's section in the restaurant, you might as well have a peeing section in the pool.'

Comedian Lil' Duval, one of the most anticipated acts, was another one of the acts instructed to tone it down for his profanity and joke content. Yielding laughter from the audience, he said, "Cream on the inside, clean on the outside - ain't that a yeast infection?"

Tyler Pride, this year's Comedy Show coordinator and Homecoming chair, said, "It was a real chill show and I just want students to enjoy Homecoming."

THE HILLTOP

Stephen Miller - Howard Homecoming Steering Committee Senior political science major and Homecoming Chair Tyler Pride is the Comedy Show coordinator.



PRESENT: WEDNESDAY

Celebrity Basketball Game

IT'S NOT A GAME, IT'S A MOVEMENT

Charles Bell, left, is a senior biology major from Chicago. He is this year's Celebrity Basketball Game coordinator.

Lance Gross, Keith Robinson of Dream Girls, Wesley Jonathon of Roll Bounce, Chico Benymon of Half and Half, ten And1 Ballers, and many more, including contestants from the VH1 reality show I love New York. Music video personality Melyssa Ford and actress Essence

Atkins will serve as coaches for the perspective teams.

"One of the main things that went into the game was banking it toward a good cause," said Charles Bell, event coordinator. "The Celebrity Basketball Game is one of the best venues during the week to actually reach the people in the community." This year, the show is geared toward young students of Washington, D.C. public schools, and helping the local community. Earlier this month, homecoming staff held essay contest for fifth grade students from elementary schools in the in the area, with the

topic, "If you were a celebrity, how would you use your fame to help the community?"

Writers of the top five essays from each school were awarded four tickets the game, and school supplies donated to their fifth grade classrooms. The overall winner will be presented with a laptop computer during half-time of the event. Other things that went into the planning of the game included reaching out and finding celebrities who were actually willing to play basketball, getting together the money to pay for those celebrities, and finding sponsors to fund the jerseys. Also, this is the first year that a Homecoming event will bring concert lighting into Burr Gymnasium.

"It takes a lot of innovation, creativity, and dedication to put together a show like this," said Aminata Sow, Treasurer's Assistant for this year's homecoming activities. "It's difficult to contact all the people you have in mind to attend the event, and the bigger the celebrity, the more difficult it is to cement an appearance. You always need a back-up for when you're doing something like this, because people in the spotlight tend to have busier schedules and have previous engagements."

According to Sow, in putting together an event like the Celebrity Basketball Game, some of trickiest situations arise when managing both the acquisition of celebrities, and handling the overall budget of the event.

"When throwing an event like this there's a lot of things we have to pay attention to cost wise," she said. "We have to think about everything from actually paying for the big name celebrities we want to involve, covering their expenses for hotels, food, and sometimes even transportation, making sure that we handle everything that needs to be handled, while not going over budget."

To ensure a positive turnout for this year's second annual event, homecoming staff has used different forms of advertising, including Facebook, Twitter, and radio promotion, the official 2009 homecoming website, as well as a pre-event (the 3 on 3 Tournament) to garner attention for the event.

"In its second year, the bar has really been raised to where it should be," said Bell. "Not only are we going to have concert lighting in Burr, but we have some of the biggest stars being featured in the event-it'll be a very exciting event that you don't want to miss."

Photo Courtesy of 88DB.com

lebrities from popular network televisions shows, as well as various other personalities. Wednesday evening at 7pm, the celebrity players will suit up for the second annual celebrity basketball game. Players will include

B9: RYAN FOSTER, EDITORIALS 6

game is back at Howard this

week, boasting a slate of ce-

Celebrity basketball

PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

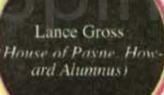
Stephen Miller - Howard Homecoming Steering Committee

Moc

performing artist Omarion, Pooch Hall of popular series The Game, Howard alum

Who are the celebrities at this year's Celebrity Basketball Game?

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Pooch Hall (the Game)

Omarion

Wesley Jonathan (Roll Bounce)

THE HILLTOP earch Center

Melyssa Ford

PRESENT: THURSDAY **Fashion Shows I & II**

BALLAD OF THE BIZARRE

Nelson Gillum, a junior public relations major, is this year's coordinator for Homecoming Fashion Show I & II, Ballad of the Bizarre.

B9: MAYA RHODAN, STAFF WRITER

If there is one event that is synonymous with the extravagance and originality of Howard University Homecoming, the Fashion Show is

This year's show, Ballad of the Bizarre, themed after the classic Disney movie Alice in Wonderland is set to surpass expectations of the grandiose display of fashion and flair that is representative of the Howard University lifestyle.

Lead model and freshman, Ashley Van Heel takes on the role of Alice in the show, characterizing the style transformation of the average Howard University student. Since May, the fashion show production team under the tutelage of junior public relations major and coordinator Nelson Gillum, has worked tirelessly to bring fresh creative direction to the idea of the Howard University Homecoming Fashion Show, and all involved are proud of the results.

"The concept of the show is completely different than any other show Howard has had during any homecoming in the past. It's very creative; it's going to be really exciting. The whole show is a theme of transformation and our Alice is

Moorland-Sp

going to really capture the attention of the audience.

Nelson's creativity and his vision are going to shine through. The concept is great," said sophomore radio, TV, film major Jovonne Harris, a fashion show volunteer and assistant

coordi-

nator.

come into fruition. The diverse gamut of students inthe added pressure being put on by the Howard community, where everyone is asking the age - old question of what celebrity is going to there?

> The committee is unwilling to spill any secrets about the show in an cffort keep to the anticipation high and the buzz going, but the surely show will not falter on the tradition of surprising the audience with a celebrity appearance.

be

As one of the most highly anticipated events of the home-File Photo coming season, students and people from all over are anxiously waiting

Thursat 7 p.m. day and 10:30 p.m. in Cramton Auditorium the hard work and effort these students, juggling midterms, jobs, class work and relationships, will

volved have also had to take on

THE HILLTOP

for.



to see just what this year's fashion show committee has to offer. Aaron Randle, a junior print journalism major and member of the committee is ready to show the Howard University community and its guests what they have spent all of this time working tirelessly

"This is a real Howard story. This show is unlike anything [most] of Howard has ever seen," Randle said, who is also a Hilltop staff writer. "You have talent scouts from N.Y. Fashion Week, modeling agency reps, celebrities, students from schools as far away as California coming just for this show. This show has a history of excellence and the fashion show is always one to be remembered ... We're still working hard on the small intricacies of the show, but make no mistake, it will be amazing," Randle said.

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FUTURE: FRIDAY PT. I

R&B Concert

O MOOHANG-SP

RHYTHMIC RENDEZVOUS

Senior legal communications major Brittney Martin serves as the R&B Concert coordinator, as well as Homecoming vice chair.

BY: CAMILLE AUGUSTIN, STAFF WRITER

This Friday, the lights of Cramton Auditorium will turn down low as seats fill with audience members anticipating a night of musical performances.

Elizabeth Hodge, a sophomore pre med psychology major from Harlem, N.Y., won Howard Idol in September and unknowingly secured a performance spot at this year's Homecoming R&B concert.

Hodge is an alto singer in Howard University's Gospel Choir. Before winning Howard Idol, she had no idea that the winner would be performing at the R&B concert. It was a surprise announced during the conclusion of the contest.

Hodge began singing at an early age. "I've been singing in my choir since I was 3.

Me and my sister's formed a singing group and would sing when my father would preach," she said.

Her father, Pastor Bishop Edwyn Hodge, is currently a pastor at Salvation and Deliverance church in New Haven, Conn Along with her family, she has been a part of the Salvation and Deliverance ministry all her life. Hodge said she has always felt encouragement from others, because she began singing in her family's church.

Music is Hodge's way of expressing herself and is how she expresses her religious devotion. "Music is my way of showing my appreciation for God," she said. She writes some of her own music but said her three sisters, Elisha, Evelyn, and Kiara, are "the writers" while she helps more with vocal arranging.

pre performance jitters, Hodge prays before singing in front of small audiences. "I get nervous in front of small audiences but not really big ones," she said. "Small audiences are way more intimate, and you have to do a lot more to get everyone to understand what you're feeling."

To ensure that her voice is strong for performance, Hodge does a warm up, drinks a lot of tea and wears scarves when the weather is cold. "If you don't warm up before you sing, it can really mess your voice up," she said.

Hodge doesn't believe that she'll have any anxiety in front of Friday's audience. "I don't think I'll be nervous. I think it will be anticipation not nervousness. I'm excited, but not scared," Hodge said. She's also excited to meet Musiq Soulchild and Laura Izibor, In order to combat any who she said are "really great

Hodge would like to pursue a professional singing career after her undergraduate years. She plans to pursue singing

artists."

while she attends medical school. However, if she doesn't decide to pursue a professional career as a singer, she would also like to teach a choir.

In addition to singing in the gospel choir, Hodge also takes part in Standing Room Only, a musical group on campus. She enjoys being a part of these groups, because she can congregate with others who share her passion for gospel music.

For Howard Idol, Hodge sang three songs, "Listen" from Dreamgirls, "If I Ain't

How do your fellow students feel about this year's headliner, Musiq Soulchild?

"I love Musiq. His song [Until] is my ringtone right tote

> Brittany Blount, freshman chemistry major

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"I would like to hear from him. An A-list performer would be better, but Musiq Soulchild does good. I would have liked to have heard Trey Songz. The committee did do a good job booking Musiq Soulchild.

- Shakeem Thomas, freshman biology major "Fve heard that it's [Homecoming] a good experience. From 1-10, I give him [Musiq Soulchild] an 8. Musiq Soulchild, he's a good performer." Courtland Mitchell, freshman political science major

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Research Le

Stephen Miller - Howard Homecoming Steering Committee

Got You" by Alicia Keys, and "I Won't Complain," an old church hymn. Of the three songs, she said she enjoyed singing the hymn the most. "Gospel is the only thing I sing, and it feels like it comes from someplace deep down," she said. Hodge's song choice for Friday will be a surprise for her friends and all others eager to hear her performance.

FUTURE: FRIDAY PT. II Who's coming to Yardfest? Here's a sneak peak...



Yardfest

FABOLOUS

A lot of us wonder how they get these cool people to come to Yandfest, right? Well, The Hilltop sat down with this year's Yandfest coordinator, Kai Lawson, to discuss the theme behind's this year's Yandfest and what it takes to get people like Fabolous and Cameo to come to Homecoming at Howard. Kai Lawson, Yardfest Coordinator

TH: How do you get artists for the show? Do you have a network? KI: I call publishers and managers and reach out into my networks to let them know what I'm doing

THE CLIPSE

TH: How do you think this year's lineup compares to that of previous years? KL: Compared to other years, I think I did very well. My main thing was to reach out to people everyone would notice. I wanted it to be relatable to the Howard community and the surrounding D.C. community as well.

TH: Your theme is past, present and future this year, right? KL: Yes, because Homecoming is not just for current students but its for alumni as well. [It's about] reaching out to alumni, students and incoming students as well. Everyone will be able to walk away with something they remember from Yardfest.

According to Brian Cox, Homecoming treasurer, Yardfest is the only show that traditionally is not given an artist budget. As a coordinator, Lawson was responsible for raising at least \$5,000. According to Cox, Lawson exceeded this expectation, making history and collecting "probably more than any other coordinator."

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Stephen Miller - Howard Homecoming Steering Committee Kai Lawson is a senior radio production major from West Chester, Penn.

Research Center

BIG SEAN

FUTURE: SATURDAY PT. I

Football Game

By: ROYCE STRAHAN, SPORTS EDITOR

The week-long of events are all surrounding the most significant event that we have homecoming for, the game.

The Howard University Bison Football Team has had their share of adver-SILV t o

are excited about this game and are hoping for a Bison victory.

"I'm always excited to be a part of homecoming history here at Howard," senior insurance

> major, Tyesha Tucker said. "I'm really hoping for Bison 1 11 this

HOWARD UNIVERSITY VS. NORTH CAROLINA AGT

again this year once again.

Ashlee Hamilton, senior prephysical therapy is optimistic about the Bison's chance of winning the game but admits that it's a toss-up either way.

the entertainment industry.

"I feel like the chances are

overcome

homecoming games of the past but this year brings a new challenge from the Mid-

Photo Courtesy of nostaggies com Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC). This year, the Bison (2-4 overall, 0-3 in the MEAC) will face the North Carolina A & T Aggies (4-3 overall, 2-2 in the MEAC) in the much anticipated homecoming game on Saturday.

Students, staff, alumni and even people who are just coming down to experience the excitement of homecoming

Saturday. After winning against Georgetown and

Winston-Salem State, I'm excited to see what the outcome is going to be. This is my first time going to a homecoming game here so it's something I'm definitely looking forward to."

 After a crushing homecoming defeat last year in a double overtime loss to Morgan State by a score of 30-31, Bison fans are ready to cheer on their team

pretty unpredictable this season because whenever people think we're going to win we lose and whenever people think we're going to lose we win,

so its hard to say," she said. Besides the excitement of the pact because if we win, it would make actual games, many students, such as everything even more exciting," she said. Hamilton, are also anticipating celebrities making an appearance at the game

which usually attracts many stars from

File Photo

Moorland-Spingarn Research Center

"Seeing so many celebrities at the game make me feel like we have the best homecoming of any HBCU's," Tucker said. "We have songs that mention our homecoming, and celebrities here all week, so it's definitely an event many people

> hate to miss out on.

Winning homecoming, for some, takes the entire week of events to a higher excitement level and Hamilton is anxious to see the outcome

"The game has a really big im-We've never won since I've been here so I really can't say describe the feeling but I think it would be exciting."

FUTURE: SATURDAY PT. II

Step Show

BY: RILEY WILSON, STAFF WRITER

The annual Howard University Homecoming Step Show is upon us and what may seem like just another Homecoming weekend is said to surely surprise many. The 2009 HU Step Show, this year themed Rhythmos: Stepping Through Time, has always been one of the headlining events for Homecoming weekend but this year, attendees are likely to get more than what they bargained for. Rhythmos, which is the Greek word for rhythm, will be hosted by Terrence J, co-host of BET's 106th and Park, and will have a guest celebrity judge as well.

The show will take a journey through the past, as each organization will incorporate a particular decade into their theme, beginning in the 1920s. According to Cristen Moore, the 2009 Step Show coordinator, all members of the Divine 9 are expected to step; however,

Howard University chapters will not be alone. Organizations are able to be represented by chapters other than Howard chapters. Among these organizations is Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc, who will be represented by North Carolina A & T's Beta Epsilon chapter.

For the past two years, the Alphas have won the Homecoming Step Show in the fraternity category. Because Beta Chapter is not stepping, some are wondering whether they will make the third time a charm.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. is also among the organizations who will have more than just Howard students represented on stage, along with Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., who will have representatives from Los Angeles, CA.

Desiree Leach, a senior Biology major from Coastal Carolina University, is looking forward to seeing her sorors of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. step this year; yet, still gets excited about the opportunity to network with people from other fraternities and sororities.

"I'm excited to see the AKA's since they weren't stepping last year - and we don't have the whole divine nine at my school so it'll be good to meet people from organizations I wouldn't typically see on a regular basis," Leach said.

Last year, Alpha Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was the sorority first-place winner, which came with a \$2,000 prize and the highly sought-after "Golden Boot" trophy. The winning fraternity and sorority still receives the "Golden Boot," but this year, the prize money has gone up to \$3,500. Although there are already more than 1,000 people who are expected to attend the event, tickets are still

available. The Deltas and the Alphas have won the step show competition for the past two years, but as time has shown, the beat is always changing the "Rhythmos" of the people. This year is sure to be a showdown.



RHYTHMOS: STEPPING THROUGH TIME

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Stephen Miller - Howard Homecoming Steering Committee

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