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WEATHER

63
38
Tomorrow:
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Established
1924

Tuesday's Notebook**BREAKING NEWS**

ACCORDING TO CNN, A 20-YEAR-OLD FEMALE FROM IRAQ WAS RUN OVER BY HER FATHER FOR BEING "TOO WESTERNIZED."

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

STUDENTS SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVES FOR THEIR TRAVELS DURING THANKSGIVING BREAK.

METRO

ACCORDING TO STUDIES, D.C. RESIDENTS MARRY LESS THAN OTHER LOCATIONS ON THE MAP. READ MORE.

VOLUME 93, NO. 46

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Middle States Pays Visit

Today begins the examination for HU's accreditation

BY LAUREN GASPARD
Staff Writer

A 10-member team from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education team arrives at Howard today, the start of a four-day examination to determine whether the university's accreditation should be renewed for another 10 years.

The visit will begin with a welcoming reception in Armour J. Blackburn at 6 p.m., which is headed by Nancy Cantor, the chancellor and president of Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the team will conduct interviews with every on-campus and department official within the university.

Students from each school will also be interviewed over the course of these few days, including student council presidents from each school and college, possible random student interviews and Howard University Student Association President and Vice President Bryan Smart and Jerome Joseph.

Smart said he hopes the accrediting process will strengthen Howard's academic program. "Accreditation is imperative," Smart said. "It simply gives Howard the chance to evaluate the things that are done

within the university. We, as a university, have been evaluating ourselves for the last couple of years now, and it is all in support

of making Howard a better place."

The other members of the team are David Cheng, assistant dean for research and planning at Columbia University; Peter Englot, associate vice president for public affairs at Syracuse University; Jeffrey Gray, vice president for student affairs at Fordham University; Julie E. Hamlin, executive director at Maryland Online; Joyce Jarrett Endowed, former provost at Hampton University; Wayne Jones, chair of department of chemistry at SUNY at Binghamton; Stanley Nyirenda, director of institutional research, assessment and evaluation at University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Ronald Paprocki, vice president for fiscal affairs at University of Rochester; Robin Jenkins, director of educational licensure commission Office of the State Superintendent of Education.

In between interviews, the evaluation team will tour and evaluate facilities and areas around campus. Some students have expressed that although they're confident Howard will perform well, they are a little worried that some of the essential things are not up to high standard.

Julian Johnson, a freshman political science major, said he is concerned about the inspection of facilities. "I've visited other campuses before and have seen their dorm rooms, and they're so nice - much nicer than ours.

I hope that does not affect us," Johnson said.

Although Johnson is worried, he feels that this will be a call to students to start speaking up and fixing these problems. "If you know you're university is troubled in some areas, it should just make you want to work that much harder to fix it," he said.

On Friday, Nov. 6, the evaluation team, plus the Howard University accreditation team, will meet in the School of Business auditorium at 10:00 a.m., to discuss what the findings were over the course of the three days.

MSCHE evaluation team will present what was observed, what are positive aspects about the university, improvements that need to be made and a number of other major points.

A written report will be released two to three weeks shortly following the presentation on Friday that will be a detailed report of the overall evaluation determining whether Howard will receive accreditation.

Sam Conner, a senior radio, television and film major, said he hopes that Howard lives up to all of the hype the university has generated over the years to avoid the possibility of losing accreditation and meaningful degrees.

"It's not that I don't think we won't be on our 'A' game," Conner said, "but it's very important that we make a great impression on them for our futures."

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The university is behind schedule with the protection plan against H1N1 virus.

HU Lagging Behind In Swine Flu Plans

BY KIARRA A. KEITH
Contributing Writer

Key elements of Howard University's plan for protecting students, faculty and staff from the seasonal flu and the dreaded H1N1 virus, commonly known as swine flu, have fallen behind schedule.

The university has yet to supply hand sanitizers to academic buildings, residence halls and common areas such as the Administration Building, Cramton Auditorium, Blackburn Center and Burr Gymnasium, as it promised in the Influenza Response Plan developed in September.

According to Associate Senior Vice President of Health Science Robin Newton, there have been no cases of H1N1 flu at Howard University, but there have been seven cases of influenza A and one case of influenza B at the Howard University Health Center. She said the Howard University Hospital had three cases of influenza A from a student. H1N1 flu is a type of influenza A.

The university developed

the Influenza Response Plan in response to concerns about the seasonal flu and the H1N1 virus. It covers preventive measures, treatments and possible evacuation of constituents at the university if the virus reaches epidemic proportions.

As of now, Howard University is at level two for Influenza Alert, or "Heightened awareness, surveillance, preventive measures and treatment," according to the Influenza Response Plan.

Newton said level one is usually during summer season when there are very little flu cases, while level two usually occurs during regular flu season.

"There are cases of the flu, but it's not so overwhelming that teachers and students are missing school," she said. "Hopefully we won't get there." If Howard reaches level three, there will be modifications in everyday life for students. According to Newton, if Howard reaches level four, it will be shut down by the D.C. Department of Health.

Since Howard is at level two,

Sister Stars 'Not Giving Up' With Empowering Panel for Women



Guest speakers included Sheila Stewart (above), the director of National News and Community Affairs at Radio One Inc., as well as Michelle Fletcher, a publisher.

BY ASHLEY THOMAS
Staff Writer

More than 100 women, Howard students, alumni and those throughout the community all crowded the Howard University Hospital Auditorium Monday night for a Women in Leadership Panel event, "Not Giving Up: Embracing the Victorious in You."

Hosted by the John H. Johnson School of Communication's Sister Stars, in conjunction with Alpha Chapter,

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Alpha Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Alpha Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. and the National Council of Negro Women of Howard, eight panelists led the discussion, which focused on how to find ways to bring victory during trying times.

The turnout was so large some had to stand in back against the auditorium doors throughout the entire event.

Co-chair of the Women's Leadership Panel Erica Austin wanted this event to occur

so that the women at Howard would have an informal discussion with distinguished women. "When we look at women in leadership they seem so far out of reach. We wanted the ladies to be able to pose questions to find out how they [the panelists] got to where they are, what steps they took," said Austin.

All of the panelists had a personal story to tell and explained how if it were not for a bad experience in their life, they would not have been as successful as they are today.

One panelist, Michelle Fletcher, explained how she got sidetracked during her college years and spent 48 months in Federal Prison for fraud. "I was stripped bare of everything. Putting glitz and glamour in front of what you know is right isn't the way to go," said Fletcher.

Despite being away from her family and having her freedom taken away, many people came to Fletcher wanting her to share her story and she decided to start writing. After publishing her first book 'Charge It To the Game,' Fletcher now has nine authors under her publishing company and 2 bookstores. "It's very important not to let money get in the way of who you are,"

> See **STAR**, page 3

HU Appears on TV

Student represents, makes appearance on primetime



Senior acting major Kamahl Naiqui appeared on Gossip Girl on Monday evening.

BY ASHLEY THOMAS
Staff Writer

Howard fans of the television show Gossip Girl have something new to chitchat about after senior acting major Kamahl Naiqui made

an appearance on the show Monday evening.

At the beginning of the show, Naiqui played a New York University student who made fun of one of the main protagonists, Dan Humphrey, who is played by Daniel Randolph. Naiqui booked the gig through his New York agency, but said this was not his first television appearance.

In 2007, Naiqui appeared in a Super Bowl commercial that aired right before the half-time show, allowing him to bear his skills to the world. He has also acted in Foot Locker commercials.

Glad for the return to television, actor and musician Naiqui said, "It feels good. I feel really happy." He has been taking a break from his acting pursuits to perfect his craft in school.

Policy Board Needs Positions Filled, Reps

BY GLYNN POGUE
Staff Writer

At Monday's monthly meeting of the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) Policy Board, the recurring theme was progression. Board chair Lloyd Talley of the School of Communications spoke passionately about the future plans of the board, stating that in order for it to be effective, "we need a strategic plan of action."

The first topic on the agenda was how to ensure that every school and college has a representative serving on the board. Out of the 12 schools and colleges on campus, there are currently six representatives, and only four were present at this meeting. The representatives present at the meeting came from the School of Business, the John H. Johnson School of Communi-



The second Policy Board meeting of the school year discussed the need to fill various staff positions and ensure that each school and college had a representative on the board.

cations, the College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Sciences and the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences.

The board is also looking to fill numerous staff positions, including that of an inter-branch relations secretary, who would help create positive interactions between the

policy board and HUSA's executive branch and legislative branch. The policy board also plans to appoint four correspondents from various schools and colleges who will in-

form, alert and present the needs and issues of the three colleges or schools for which they will serve as a liaison. A secretary of internal affairs would also be necessary to plan meetings, make room requests and take minutes during the policy meeting. Finally, two clerks would be essential in drafting the board's recommendations and suggestions.

In order to help inform the student body of the role of the policy board and student government on campus, Talley will be proposing a seminar program titled, "So You Want to Run for Student Government."

With more committed participation, the board could aggressively tackle one of Talley's major initiatives — comparing the school and college constitutions with the HUSA Constitution to bring them closer in alignment.

Bree Gant - Photographer

Mecca Students Get A Taste, Raise Money



Nerve.com

The smell of fried chicken floated through the airwaves of Armour J. Blackburn Gallery Lounge as students stood in line to indulge in the food of their choice. Students from various state clubs sold snacks and finger foods in order to raise money for Bison Ball.

Howard University Student Association teamed up with Target Hope and WHBC to host the second annual Taste of the Mecca event.

"First thing I heard was there was Chipotle in Blackburn for \$4 and I was there. I left class early to get my burrito," said Joe Phillips, a senior information systems major.

Not only was there Chipotle, sponsored by the Colorado Club, but pretzels and Rita's Water Ice sponsored by the Philly Club were for sale as well. Fried chicken and mambo sauce was another food that sold quickly.

The event, which began at 12:00 p.m. and was scheduled to end at 6:00 p.m., ran out of food by 3:30 p.m. Event coordinator and senior biology major, Danielle James believes the event was a success.

"We actually raised a lot of money. This is the second time we've had this and I think it went very well," James said.

- Compiled by Victoria Fortune, Staff Writer

Preventing The InFLUenza

With Howard University at a Level 2 Influenza Alert, according to Dr. Robin Newton, associate senior vice president of Health Services, it is important that students take the initiative to prevent and protect themselves by getting tested at the Health Center and practicing proactive methods in the dormitories.

Keep From Getting the Flu and Spreading It to Others:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing.

2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

3. If you know someone who's sick with flu like symptoms, they should be wearing a surgical mask.

4. Eat a reasonably balanced diet and take multivitamins.

5. Stay at home if you are sick for at least 24 hours.

6. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing or coughing.

7. Getting both vaccinations is a recommendation.

8. Vaccinations are not given to people with the flu or fever, only with a cold.

Locations near Howard University that offer H1N1 vaccinations, suggested by Dr. Evelyn Teakle-Moore, director of Student Health Center:

When: Tuesday, Nov. 3

Time: 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Hardy Middle School
Wilson Senior High School

When: Thursday, Nov. 5

Time: 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Coolidge Senior High School
McKinley Tech Senior High School

When: Saturday, Nov. 7

Time: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Cardozo Senior High School
Ballou Senior High School
Eliot-Hine Middle School
Kelly Miller Middle School

When: Tuesday, Nov. 10

Time: 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Coolidge Senior High School
McKinley Tech Senior High School

When: Thursday, Nov. 12

Time: 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Cardozo Senior High School
Ballou Senior High School

When: Saturday, Nov. 14

Time: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Eliot-Hine Middle School
Kelly Miller Middle School
Hardy Middle School
Wilson Senior High School

- Information from Dr. Robin Newton, associate senior VP of Health Services and howard.edu

COAS Introduces New Way to Track Grievances

BY CAMILLE AUGUSTIN
Staff Writer

Students will now be able to keep track of their filed grievances with the new grievance online tracking system installed in the College of Arts and Sciences (COAS).

"This makes solving an issue more interactive," said Llewingtona King, Arts and Sciences Student Council (ASSC) executive vice president. "Issues will be handled instead of just being received."

Through this notification system, students will have the opportunity to know the status of their grievances via e-mail and the steps taken to address them.

A description and display of the new grievance method can be found in the ASSC online newsletter, "The Greenlight Gazette." The three steps include received, pending and resolved. The red light indicates the grievance being filed and the issue up for investigation.

tion. The yellow light lets the student know when proper authorities are notified and a plan to resolve the issue is designed. The green light represents the issue being resolved and the grievance report is filed for future reference.

According to Jon-Michael Washington, director of student advocacy in ASSC and creator of the online grievance system, it was suggested in the "Greenlight" agenda to have a three-step grievance process.

Now council has taken steps to it," Washington said. "So far it has been effective, we have received about 200 grievances during our two grievance days in ASSC week."



Oluyomi Solunke - Photographer

COAS Students now have a way to track their grievances from the time they file out one until the time the problem is solved.

to the Web so students have the ability to follow the actions taken on their grievance. "I took the

original idea and added content to it," Washington said. "So far it has been effective, we have received about 200 grievances during our two grievance days in ASSC week."

Washington said the online system has not been implemented on the Web site yet but council is in the process of putting the grievances on a blog for students to track them. The council has taken extra steps to ensure that each student grievance filed will be taken into consideration and evaluated.

"This is definitely an interactive grievance system," said Dorien Blythers, ASSC executive

president. Blythers said this is an innovative method and will help students in COAS to further keep track of their complaints or concerns. "It gives students the opportunity to know the status of their grievances as opposed to just filing a grievance and not being able to fully be sure that their complaint has been dealt with," Blythers said.

"I usually do not have problems that need to be rectified outside of my daily life, but I know that if I do have a problem or concern in COAS, I will be able to follow it," said Ariel Benny, a sophomore English major.

Other plans for council advocating on behalf of the students in COAS include a town hall meeting where issues that students are facing will be discussed, a meet and greet, and in addition, a breakdown of the social sciences. Within this program, students will be able to get a more concentrated aspect of their major.

TODAY:

Accreditation Site Visit

Nov. 3 - 6, 2009

THE HILLTOP

Sororities, Campus Orgs Speak With Stars

continued from FRONT, STAR

she said.

Marie C. Johns, former CEO president of Verizon DC and HU Trustee shared how she was married at 19 and by 20 years old she was a mother, all while still in college. She and her husband made it through although it wasn't easy and by putting family first, she still achieved her financial success when the time was right.

Dee Taylor Jolley, Chief Operation Officer of Willie Jolley Worldwide explained the importance of humility and how her being fired brought her back down to earth. "It's not about your

beauty, but how you talk to people and how you treat people," Jolley said.

Bernadette Williams, the founder of Man Up and Sister Stars was brought to tears hearing her first lady share her story.

"It is a dream coming to formation," Williams said. "The trustees are what the university stands for. Just how the program has spread across the whole metropolitan area, I'm just very excited."

Williams created Sister Stars for the women, and Man Up for the men of Howard to provide students with support, resources and skillful tools that they will

eventually need towards their professional development.

Although Sister Stars started for students in the School of Communications, students from other departments are still wishing to be involved. Ariel Benny, sophomore English major from the College of Arts and Science heard about Sister Stars from a friend and came to see what it was all about. After hearing the discussion she said she was happy she came. "Now I feel like no matter what, I can make it. Troubles will come but people have done it before me, I can follow in their footsteps."

Swine Flu a Fat Issue

continued from FRONT, FLU

according to the plan there are to be educational forums around campus informing students about prevention. "We have to do something different. We are going to launch a blitz," Newton said.

The university also has not provided large-scale student immunizations as promised in the plan. One of the main goals of the Influenza Response Plan is to vaccinate all students for the seasonal influenza.

The Student Health Center began offering a vaccine for the seasonal flu Monday in Armour J. Blackburn Center; however, there is only enough seasonal vaccination for about 290 students, Treacle-Moore said. The vaccine will also be offered in Blackburn on Friday, Nov. 5.

There will be a \$10 fee charged to the student's account for the vaccine. The season flu vaccine will not

be available for faculty and employees, Treacle-Moore said.

Newton said seasonal flu vaccinations are usually ordered in late winter or early spring so that pharmaceutical manufacturers can have an idea of how much medicine they need to produce. The Health Center is planning to give out the rest of the flu vaccinations available in the next week while waiting to receive more to give to the students.

"We ordered based on what we usually get," she said. "This was before the outbreak of the H1N1 flu."

Howard has not provided the H1N1 vaccine to students. Last week, President Obama declared a national emergency, as vaccine manufacturers have not been able to supply doses of the medicine as quickly as they had forecast.

"As you know, H1N1 vaccine is in short supply," Treacle-Moore said.

"Unfortunately, we have yet to receive an allotment of H1N1. We hope to receive our supply within the next two weeks. When it becomes available, we will hold vaccine clinics in addition to offering the H1N1 vaccine at the Student Health Center."

Howard University put in an order for 3,000 H1N1 flu vaccinations that were supposed to be received by the end of October, said Newton.

When the H1N1 vaccine becomes available there will also be a fee of \$10. Again, this will not be available to faculty and employees, she said. Until the vaccine becomes available, Treacle-Moore suggested students get immunized at their primary clinics or at one of the D.C. Department of Health vaccination sites.

Details on the university's Influenza Response Plan can be found at howard.edu/influenza.



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FOOTBALL TICKET DISTRIBUTION

Get Your Tickets to the

Howard University Bison
Vs.

South Carolina State University
Bulldogs

(game day 11-7-09)

Howard University Bison
Vs.

Bethune-Cookman University
Wildcats

(game day 11-14-09)

tickets distributed on

DATE:

Wednesday, November 4th &
Thursday, November 5th

TIME:

10:00am until 3:00pm

PLACE:

Cramton Auditorium

Please bring your student identification card. No other form of identification will be accepted. If your validation occurred after Friday, September 25th, you MUST bring written proof via Bison Web to leave at the desk. Tickets will be distributed on a first come first serve basis until they are exhausted.

Students Find Cheaper Methods For Home Travels

With the holidays arriving, students are seeking the most cost-efficient ways to make it home

BY GERRON JORDAN
Staff Writer

With the onset of fall, most Howard students anticipate the chance of returning home for Thanksgiving break; finally being able to escape campus food and living for a while. Students can travel to be with family members and enjoy some old-fashioned, home-cooked food.

However, with our nation still feeling the effects of the economic downturn, many have to re-think alternative methods of transportation in order to save money.

"I paid almost \$400 to get home to Chicago, for Thanksgiving," said sophomore economics major Saidah Anderson. "I think it is a lot of money and I'm just grateful that my parents were in a position to buy the ticket!"

Anderson, who decided to fly home for the holidays purchased her ticket a little over a week ago.

According to Flights.com, that was her first mistake.

Flights.com's first tip to saving money on airfare is to purchase months in advance.

While flying may be the fastest mode of transportation, there are other options that students can consider this holiday season that will cut costs and the hassle of long security lines, baggage fees and the overall hassle of flying.

"Prudent families should closely compare the cost of all

modes of transportation for both price and hassle," said Rick Seaney of FareCompare.com.

Students can opt to drive, ride a bus or train to their holiday destinations.

"I'm driving back home for Thanksgiving," said sophomore biology major Evyan Durham of Winston-Salem, N.C. "I didn't even consider flying, because it's not worth spending the extra money for that short of a distance."

The MegaBus has given students a cheaper alternative to flying.

Students traveling from Washington can get to popular destinations like New York and Philadelphia for as low as \$7 one-way.

Likewise, AmTrak offers discounts to students for up to 15 percent.

They also offer a student discount card that can be used on AmTrak and other travel outlets as well.

According to the Associated Press, the following is a by-the-numbers look at different modes of transportation traveling on a common route: New York to Boston on Nov. 25 and returning on Nov. 29- and how you can save during your trip.

The airfare selected was the cheapest nonstop itineraries available as of last weekend.

Booking a flight on U.S. Airways will cost \$282.20 round-trip, including taxes and fees, per



Recent price increases make ground transportation a cheaper alternative to airfare for those seeking to save money in their holiday travels.

person.

Add in one bag checked at the airport and that adds \$50 round-trip. Air total: \$332.20

Greyhound will get there for \$144 roundtrip. Checking a second bag will cost \$40 round-trip. Bus total: \$184.

One can drive the 215 miles each way for about \$50 in gas

roundtrip.

Meals on the road will add about \$80 more. No charge for entertainment. Driving total: \$130.

Whether going by car, bus, train or plane, there is no doubt that this year, travel expenses for the Thanksgiving holiday will be higher than in previous years.

Students who want to save

money in travel expenses, should consider all of their options before booking an itinerary.

For more information on how to save money while traveling this holiday season and a complete list of tips for finding cheap travel, visit, www.flights.com/cheap_airfare.html

George Washington Carver

"He could have added fortune to fame but caring for neither, he found happiness and honor in being helpful to the world."

BY EVAN HOLLIS
Staff Writer

Who would have thought there could be hundreds of applications for peanuts, soybeans, pecans, and sweet potatoes?

George Washington Carver certainly did and because he did, southern United States agriculture was revolutionized.

George Washington Carver was a scientist, botanist, educator and inventor.

He was born into slavery in 1864 on his master's farm where he gained an interest in nature.

Cotton's depletion of the soil and the boll weevil's destruction of cotton, during the Reconstruction era, led Carver to devote his practice to establishing alternative crops for southern farmers.

George Washington Carver wanted farmers to grow alternative crops as a source to improve their quality of life and as a source of their own food.

Therefore, Carver discovered hundreds of uses for peanuts, soybeans, sweet potatoes, and pecans.

Carver is most known for his hundreds of recipes and uses for peanuts.

With peanuts alone, Carver originated about 300 applications. However, Carver found many uses for sweet potatoes, pecans, and soybeans as well.

George Washington Carver found that such crops were useful for cosmetics, dyes, paints, plastics, gasoline, and other foods such as mayonnaise, buttermilk, coffee, and chili sauce.

Carver not only developed these techniques but educated many on such inventions while serving as the Director of Agriculture at Tuskegee University.

He remained apart of the faculty, at Tuskegee, until his death in 1943.

Though Carver discovered hundreds of applications for alternative crops, he only applied for three patents.

Carver chose not to profit



Photo Courtesy of the Library of Congress

George Washington Carver rose from slavery to leave a legacy of innovation and engineering.

from most of his products.

When questioned about his refusal to profit from his work, he would respond, "God gave them to me. How can I sell them to someone else?"

Carver's work gained him much fame, respect and numerous honors.

He was an honorary member of the Royal Society of Arts in England. In 1939, he received the Roosevelt medal for restoring southern agriculture and after his death, President Roosevelt honored Carver with a national monument dedicated to his accomplishments.

Besides revolutionizing

southern agriculture, Carver's legacy also includes his humanitarianism and serving as a prominent figure in improving race relations.

Carver's many achievements and talents rejected the stereotype of blacks being intellectually inferior.

George Washington Carver's legacy is best demonstrated by the epitaph on his grave, which reads, "He could have added fortune to fame, but caring for neither, he found happiness and honor in being helpful to the world."

Sperm Donor Testing To Combat Disorders

BY NATASSHA ROBINSON
Contributing Writer

The lack of thoroughly testing semen received from sperm donors has raised caution in many sperm banks as well as for its recipients.

According to a medical journal report gathered by CBS news, in Chicago, a sperm donor passed on a deadly genetic heart disease condition to nine out of his 24 children.

One of the children, at age 2, has already died from heart failure.

Now, two of the children, both teenagers, have developed symptoms and are at risk for sudden cardiac death.

"Genetic testing when sperm donating is very important, because it can be used to find chromosomal defects or genetic traits that may cause congenital anomalies, such as the kids' heart problems," said Victoria Jennings, a senior nursing major.

A sperm bank or cryobank is a facility that collects and stores sperm for the purpose of achieving pregnancy, also known as artificial insemination.

Selected donors must go through an intense process of interviews, screenings and medical tests.

To protect the recipient the medical screening process for potential sperm donors is a rather rigorous one.

Without sufficient testing, potentially deadly genetic conditions can be passed down to unknowing children.

Sperm bank donors are required to provide a complete medical history to rule out those with infectious diseases or a family history of inherited diseases.

"We must do what the FDA mandates, which is testing for infectious disease, blood types and toxicology test for 'street' drugs and prescription drugs that may have been abused," said Dr. Richard E. Blake, an associate professor in the Obstetrics and Gynecology department at HUH.

Dr. Blake continued to say, "in terms of genetic testing they ask more general questions, ones that have yes and no answers."

Due to these latest cases, several sperm banks, such as the San Francisco sperm bank, are taking extra precautionary steps when screening donors.

These banks are now giving all donors electrocardiogram tests to discard men with genetic heart

problems.

According to the Newser.com, U.S. fertility clinics are looking for a way to give donor-conceived children access to their fathers' medical records—without imperiling the industry.

Despite the fact there are no federal regulations on anonymity, cases when a donor-conceived child has a birth defect call for a ban on confidentially waivers.

Although medical records could help diagnose a potential disease, Jennings believes the donor-conceived children with birth defects should solely blame the clinic.

"All testing of the donated specimen is the responsibility of the facility," she said. "Patients receiving donated sperm are aware of the risks before implantation is completed."

Dr. Blake agrees to some extent. "The clinic needs to stop using that particular donor. The clinic is basically being negligent if they continue to allow the person to donate," he said.

Disagreeing with solely blaming the clinic is adopted Amira Schroeder.

"Although I'm adopted and was not conceived through artificial insemination I can relate to wanting to get in touch with the people that 'made you', especially if something is wrong like having a disease," Schroeder said. "It sucks not being able to call them and ask questions especially when it involves your health."

Schroeder is a senior African American history major at Temple University.

Neither the sperm bank nor the donor of the 24 children was identified.

The children are now ages 7 to 16.

Nine of the children tested positive for the heart mutation hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. The condition thickens the heart making it difficult to pump blood.

The genetic condition affects one in 500 people many more are likely to have the defect without symptoms according to Heidi Rehm of Harvard Medical School.

Irregular heartbeat and shortness of breath are some of the symptoms, and treatment includes medication and a defibrillator.

The remaining children are at increased risk for heart problems, which often don't show up until adolescence.

District Residents Have Lowest Marriage Rate in the Country

BY TIFFANY P. BRIGGS
Contributing Writer

Holding hands while walking through the busy streets of Columbia Heights, Carrie and Mark Davis are about to partake in their weekly grocery shopping trip. The Davis' have been married for six years and have no children.

Married couples like the Davis' are visible on television shows, movies, and commercials. However, trying to spot a married couple in Washington, D.C. can be extremely challenging.

According to a study conducted by the Pew Research Center, the District of Columbia has the lowest marriage rate in the country.

About 23 percent of women and 28 percent of men in D.C. are married, in comparison to 48 percent of women and 52 percent of men nationwide.

The Pew Study shows that residents of D.C. tend to tie the knot significantly later in life than the residents of the rest of the 50 states. The median age for a first-time marriage in the state of Idaho is 24 years old for women and 25 years old for men. While in D.C.,

the median age for a first marriage is 30 years old for women and 32 years old for men.

Freshman public relations major and D.C. native Ashley Gerald never noticed that people from her city got married at a later age than people in other parts of the country.

"Now that I think about it, I have come into contact with more single [residents] than married ones," Gerald said.

According to *Newsweek* editor Katie Connolly, marriage rates are normally lower in urban areas than they are in rural areas.

States such as Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, and North Dakota and South Dakota have the highest concentration of married couples, whereas the states which host the nation's largest cities such as New York, California, and D.C. generally have lower percentages of people that are married.

D.C. is known for its nightlife, variety of restaurant choices, and Capitol Hill job opportunities which tend to attract young and single people.

The District is also known for expensive rental and sales rates on homes and apartments, which seems to be pushing residents

starting families to suburban areas where it is more affordable.

According to NBC, Washington, D.C. has another demographic issue working against high marriage rates as well. The city ranked first in the nation for its percentage of same sex couples in the 2000 Census. Currently, couples of the same sex cannot be married legally in D.C.

At the present time, there is a gay marriage bill waiting to be passed. If the bill is successfully passed, the District marriage rate may extensively increase.

"It's a shame that black people won't get married, but [people of the same sex] will," said Otis Jackson, a 62-year-old Northeast native.



The demographics within the District contribute to the issue of marriage.

Improvements Made In Child Care Agency



The D.C. Child and Family Service Agency has made strides to improve its internal issues after facing criticism for negligence leading to child deaths.

BY ASHLEY MASON-GREENE
Contributing Writer

One year ago, Washington D.C.'s Child and Family Service Agency (CFSA) was facing internal issues.

Mayor Adrian Fenty fired six child welfare workers after four young girls were discovered dead and decomposing at the home in which their mother and murderer still lived.

Following this case were several more children who, as a result of being abused and/or neglected, had died. If the CFSA had examined these cases in the manner in which they were supposed to, there is a possibility that those children might still be alive.

Some felt that Fenty acted too hastily when firing and blaming individuals since it could have been a result of a flawed system.

As a result of these tragic events, the CFSA has been working diligently to improve conditions and promote itself as a reliable agency.

In recent months, the CFSA has set forth initiatives to drastically alter and improve issues within the agency.

These initiatives include maintaining safety reforms, ensuring permanent homes and improving children and youth well being.

Fenty along with Attorney General Peter Nickles and CFSA Director Roque Gerald announced last week that the CFSA has improved services and maintained the high safety standards established earlier this year.

"CFSA is forging ahead in providing the safety, security, health, and overall well-being our most vulnerable children and young people need and deserve," Fenty said.

The CFSA's new programs have resulted in great improvements.

Timeliness of investigations along with advancements in services directed toward children and youth enveloped in the system and ensuring permanent

homes for those young people are the most notable changes.

Beginning and completing investigations of child abuse and neglect has become a top priority. Timeliness of inquiries now consistently reaches 90 percent.

The CFSA has also joined forces with a private local agency, Adoptions Together, to focus on and speed adoptions. Through these efforts, 113 children have been placed in loving homes.

Other efforts have been directed toward developing the minds and skills of the youth enthralled in the child service system. CFSA has revamped their in-house life skills training course for those older youths that are still in the foster care system.

Social workers have also been using a more aggressive education assessment to encourage parents, foster parents and guardians as well as students to make education a top priority.

Lastly, starting in December, an in-house medical center will be opened for children entering CFSA care.

"Perhaps the most ambitious and potentially far-reaching work underway involves improving consistent use of best practices in assisting families, children, and youth. Child welfare often gets involved because parents are going through a crisis," said Mindy Good, spokesperson for CFSA.

"To get through that, we need to help them tap their own strengths and get involved in making positive changes for the good of their children."

The efforts made by the CFSA are pointing the agency in the right direction. But some citizens are still skeptical.

"That all sounds nice, but the CFSA should have never gotten into the condition it got into in the first place," said Samantha Turner, senior marketing major. "Children lost their lives largely because of the CFSA's negligence. And that is unacceptable."

CFSA is already seeing positive outcomes as a result of their efforts.

Election Day D.C. Voter Registration Statistics

As of September 30, 2009

Ward	Dem.	Rep.	STG	N-P	OTH	Totals
1	36,142	2,628	810	9,916	200	49,696
2	29,025	5,471	341	9,730	165	44,732
3	34,304	7,734	351	10,160	149	52,698
4	46,522	2,709	602	8,623	179	58,635
5	46,128	2,026	571	7,243	168	56,136
6	38,778	5,162	510	8,720	169	53,339
7	45,556	1,501	466	6,411	123	54,057
8	37,476	1,353	493	6,328	126	45,776
Totals	313,931	28,584	4,144	67,131	1,279	415,06
Total %	75.6%	6.9%	1.0%	16.1%	0.4%	100%

Information Courtesy of the D.C. Board of Election and Ethics

Metro Section is looking for 2 talented and dedicated writers to come on board as staff writers.

If you like to attend D.C. events, meet local heroes and highlight the city's culture, send an e-mail to hilltopmetro@gmail.com. Or come to a budget meeting Sundays at 6 p.m. in the West Towers.

Metro Briefs

50 Car Tires Found Slashed in Howard County, Md.

Residents in the Columbia area of Howard County, Md. woke up to find their cars vandalized. Between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. on Halloween night through Sunday morning, 50 car tires parked on the street were slashed.

Police say it is an isolated incident and probably committed by young people who know the neighborhood well. A \$300 reward is being offered for anyone who has information that could help police find and arrest any suspects.

Md. Man Reunites With Dog After 10 Years of Separation

A Fredericksburg, Va. man reunited with his missing dog on Sunday after 10 years of separation. Gary Rowley lost the companionship of his dog, Brindle, back in 1999 when he escaped through the door at Rowley's home. Ever since that Super Bowl night, canine and owner lived in separation.

A girl found Brindle in a sick condition in Oklahoma. Her family took him to the veterinarian for treatment. The vet discovered a microchip containing tracking information on Brindle's body. This device made it possible for Brindle and Rowley to find one another. Brindle arrived at Rowley's home in Fredericksburg.

Georgetown Student Suspected to be Gay, Attacked

Two men attacked a Georgetown University student because of a T-shirt she was wearing when they saw her. Because she had on a gay rights shirt, the attackers thought the student was a lesbian. They proceeded to verbally and physically assault her last Tuesday night.

According to her report to the university's Department of Public Safety, the two assailants made derogatory comments directed at her, blocked her entrance to the campus and took her bag. They proceeded to throw her to the ground and hit her with her bag. The case is currently being investigated by D.C. police. She sustained minor injuries and didn't need treatment.

Former Alexandria, Va. Police Chief Makes Video About Drunk Driving

The former police chief of Alexandria, Va. is using his negative experience with alcohol to spread awareness about drunk driving. David Baker, 38, resigned from his position after getting caught driving while intoxicated in July.

Baker stars in a YouTube video entitled "Even a Police Chief Can Get Nailed Drunk Driving," coordinated by the Regional Alcohol Program. The video will promote awareness about the dangers of drunk driving.

"I was the chief of police. But it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter," he said in the video.

During the July 23 incident, Baker collided with another car and tested for a 0.19 blood alcohol level.

- Compiled by
Genet Lakew, Metro Editor

Did you know?

Black Fashion History

- Beverly Johnson was the first black model on the cover of *VOGUE* in 1974 after appearing first on *GLAMOUR*'s cover in 1971.
- Stephen Burrows is the first African-American fashion designer to reach international fame.
- First black woman on the covers of *EQ*, *Sports Illustrated* Swim-suit Issue and *Victoria's Secret Catalog* was Tyra Banks.

—Compiled By Cierra Jones
Life & Style Editor. Information
courtesy of la2day.com

Cell Phone Rudeness No Reason to LOL

BY AARON RANDLE
Staff Writer

"Don't chew with your mouth open!" "Elbows off the table!" "Don't stare!" These old-world societal etiquette rules, while still applicable, are being heard less as people try to establish a new set of rules to deal with the latest dominant societal system: technology.

As the BlackBerry, text messaging and Twitter take precedent over family dinners, verbal discussions and personal interaction, circumstance would have it that rules be developed to help define what is viewed as appropriate and not so appropriate decorum with these technologies.

The assumption that Americans are glued to their electronic devices is an understatement. According to a June 2009 Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) survey, more than 89 percent of Americans (276.6 million) own cellular devices. The survey went on to report that Americans talk for more than 2.2 trillion minutes and send more than 1.36 trillion text messages annually.

"My cell phone is the single most important thing I own, after certain necessities like food and clothes," said Natelegé Whaley, a junior print journalism major. As cell phones go from being a prevalent force in daily communication to the dominant one, nuisances and pet peeves are subsequently becoming more noticeable and thus generating more opinions on ways to regulate them.

But what exactly are these cell phone pet peeves?

"There are lots of small things about your cell phone that can become really annoying," said Jovonne Harris, a sophomore radio, TV and film major. "People who talk too loud on them in public, don't know when to text; people who overuse 'LOL' in their texts; there are so many, most of them dealing with texting!" Harris knows all too well about the small annoyances of cell phones and text messaging.

The range of nuisances run the gamut, but most deal with talking too loudly on the phone, poor



Faraday Okoro - Photo Editor

Some people are not aware of the appropriate times and places to use cell phones. Situations such as face-to-face conversation or in class can both be times when texting is inappropriate.

texting jargon and texting at inappropriate times. The latter seems to be the most prevalent. "I am guilty of sometimes texting when I know I shouldn't" said Taylor Bryan, a sophomore economics major. "During meetings, at work, while on dates; it's addicting."

Addiction or not, etiquette expert Caroline Tiger, sees texting during inappropriate times as unacceptable. Tiger recently discussed the problem with the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, stating, "I don't think people should be texting in situations where people deserve to be listened to. People shouldn't have to be in a conversation or looking out at a group and see people with their heads bowed clicking away on their cell phone or BlackBerry."

Harris said the problem that annoys him most is the excessive use of 'LOL.' 'LOL,' an abbreviation for the term "laugh (or laughing) out loud," is a quick way of expressing ones amusement at something during texting, but is sometimes used for other reasons.

"I definitely overuse 'LOL.' It's a good way to ease tension and

make light of a situation," said Calvin Seino, a sophomore information systems major. "I might actually be a little annoyed or upset with a person, but adding 'LOL' on the end relieves some of the tension."

While some tensions are eased by 'LOL,' countless others are aggravated by various cell phone abuses and wait for the day when people understand what is and is not acceptable decorum with cell phones. "I really wish someone could write a book on the do's and don'ts of cell phones," Harris said. "Everyone could use that."

Here at *The Hilltop*, we didn't write a book, but we do have a few cell phone etiquette tips that can be put into good use to avoid any static with those around you:

Lay Off the LOL!

You're not Elmo; you're not laughing at everything. Overusing LOL can confuse people on your true meanings, and that is never a good thing.

Yak! Don't Yell

Personal conversations should be just that. The world

doesn't want to hear about how drunk you were last night, who you're dating or why your mom won't send you a care package.

Know when to text

Texting on the bus, in between class, while relaxing in your bedroom are all acceptable. During an interview or on a date, not so much!

Ringtone Regulate!

Blasting "Becky" by Plies every time you get a phone call at work? You may want to reconsider.

Beware of the Bluetooth

This should only be on your ear when you're talking to someone. In all other situations, you look utterly ridiculous and a little crazy. No one likes people who talk to themselves.

Screen Selectively

I know you're tired of your girlfriend calling you everyday to complain about her boyfriend. But don't ignore her calls too often. She's not going to believe your phone is on low battery at 10 a.m.

How Important Are Friends, Family in Relationships

BY BRITTANY HARRIS
Contributing Writer

Christine Singh and Tim Waters have been in a relationship for nine months. Although Singh, a junior English major, and Waters, a recent Howard graduate, differ in age, they shared a common answer when asked whether the support from and involvement of family and friends held much importance in their relationship. The answer was no.

"I wouldn't care, regardless, about what anyone says," Waters said confidently.

"My [family and friends] aren't dating that person; I am. Yes, you want your family and friends to be involved, but at the end of the day you are with that person [not them]."

It is not uncommon for relationships to bear the consequences of overly involved friends and family. In a recent dating article posted on lovetoknow.com, those factors can cause a lot of stress in a relationship and are two of several reasons why some relationships don't last.

Singh said she avoids any unnecessary involvement from her family, especially, by keeping her relationship life private.

"Unfortunately, it forces me to put boundaries on what I can share with my parents," Singh said. "Ideally, I would love the support from my parents to be able to tell them stuff, but their beliefs on

relationships are a lot different."

Singh attributed these differences to culture and said her parents would prefer more control in her relationship, something she is not willing to allow.

"They've never really accepted the dating scene," Singh said, "and they probably won't, at least not right now."

Kayla Brooks, a junior television production major, said she could relate to Singh. "In the past, my father hasn't been too open to the guys I have brought home," she said. But Brooks believed her parents' opinions matter a lot more when establishing relationships.

"I respect my parents' opinion on issues like that in my life. I just try to figure out why they feel the way they do and if their reasons were valid, I may have to reconsider [being with that person]," Brooks said.

"The reality is, if you can't get your parents' approval, it's going to be hard for the relationship to work."

When asked if support and approval from her friends mattered just as much as her parents', Brooks chuckled. "I actually try to keep those two separate; my man is my man, my friends are my friends."

Brooks said that in a perfect world she'd like to be able to share everything with her friends, but from past experience, she knows that's not always best.

"It's not supportive when your friends have a negative



Faraday Okoro - Photo Editor

Nowadays, people do the best they can to keep their friends and families out of their relationships. It can sometimes become stressful to hear the opinions of loved ones.

opinion on every situation that you and your partner may be in," Brooks said.

"It does nothing but complicate things for you and your partner."

Brooks also said that even she's played the part of the nosy, over-involved best friend, but she's matured a lot since then.

"I know how it feels to feel like you can't even talk to

your closest friends about your relationship because you're afraid of what they'll say. I've laid back [from my friends' relationships] a lot and I just aspire to be there for them, when they really need me.

**Are You On The ComeUp?
Do You Know Anybody on The ComeUp?**

**Nominate Them or Yourself!
E-mail hilltopls@gmail.com**



Nicolette McClendon - Cartoonist

Accreditation Process Returns to Howard

Accreditation. At Howard University, this ominous term strikes a nerve within the student body—a menacing intimidation from the United States Department of Education. Accreditation is the difference between receiving a hard-earned degree, as opposed to a random piece of paper signifying that the last four (or five in some cases) years of your life haven't been in vain.

The registration issues, the financial aid rejection, the rest of the stressors Howard so graciously bestows on all its students at one time or another, you've endured them all for a purpose - recognition of the education that qualifies you as a candidate for higher learning, or most importantly getting a job.

This week, Howard University will be judged by anonymous arbitrators on its legitimacy as a university on a number of different criterion. After the critique, Howard will be pronounced as either an accredited university, or in the worse case scenario, a non-accredited university.

In the chance the

latter occurs, students hoping to attend Howard University in the future will undoubtedly go elsewhere, and although the credits we've slaved for during our time at this lovely institution wouldn't be null and void, it wouldn't look too good to employers to see we've earned a degree from a university that recently lost its

Our View:

Accreditation is a scary process, but hopefully Howard's got it covered.

accreditation.

According to the United States Department of Education, the purpose of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality. The federal government itself doesn't judge institutions for accreditation but does publish a list of nationally recognized agencies that they deem reliable sources of doing so.

Well if any of these government-approved agen-

cies take a random tour of Howard's campus and find the learning atmosphere or environment unfit, or decide that we don't meet their standards, then what? Do we all have to just throw up our hands and transfer to new schools? Go home? Move to Hollywood and become aspiring actresses and models?

No, it's not that simple.

Any university that doesn't meet the criterion for accreditation is given a certain amount of time to correct any issues that may have held them back, say deplorable classroom conditions or under qualified professors. Also, students who were attending the university while it was still accredited would be in the clear. But for students who anticipate beginning their college careers after a university-wide loss of accreditation - not so much.

Hopefully, Howard University will come out of this accreditation battle victorious and be in the clear for another 10, blissful years.

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

Want to write for The Hilltop?

Come grab a story at our next budget meeting.

Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Howard Plaza Towers West P-Level

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to the editor or perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on our Web site at www.thehilltoponline.com.

Any inquiries for advertisements or Hilltopics should be directed to

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Now in its 85th year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

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

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.

I believe the choice to be excellent begins with aligning your thoughts and words with the intention to require more from yourself.

- Oprah Winfrey

Send your perspectives to HilltopEditorials@gmail.com

Come and enjoy a play about the connection between Anne Frank and Emmett Till: "Anne & Emmett" by Janet Langhart Cohen. Dessert reception and discussion following the performance.

Wednesday,
November 4,
2009

7 PM

Sixth & I
Historic
Synagogue

600 I Street,
NW

Washington,
DC

Ticket Info:
(202)
234-6832
or
www.oudc.org

**First Friday:
Labor of Love
1,000 Hour
Service
Challenge**

**November 6,
2009**

**12:00pm-
2:00pm**

PunchOut

**Show your love
for Howard and
the community
we live in
by signing up to
give back this
holiday!**

**Bring yourself,
your crew, and
your entire
organization
"Don't Be Tardy
For The Party"
Fun, Music, and
Prizes!**

**Text HUSA49 to
41411 for more
information.**

*The Ladies of
Alpha
Chapter,
Delta
Sigma Theta
Sorority,
Incorporated
present:*

*"I Feel Like
Dying:
Depression
and Suicide
in the Black
Community"*

*November 3,
2009*

7:00 pm

*Founders
Browsing
Room*

**YOUNG,
BLACK, AND
UNINSURED**

**A
CONVERSATION
ABOUT CHILD
HEALTH CARE
IN BLACK
AMERICA.**

**FEATURING
DR. GREG
CARR
AND
DR. MICHAL
YOUNG**

**Tuesday
November 3rd
7 PM in the
School of
Business
Auditorium**

**The School of
Education and
The Journal of
Negro
Education
invite you to a
special lecture**

**by Dr.
Margaret
Beale
Spencer at the
30th
Annual
Charles
Thompson
Lecture.**

**"Truth and
Facts about
Urban Youths'
Achievement
Patterns"**

**Nov. 4th
5:00pm
Blackburn
West
Ballroom**

**STUDENT
APATHY
FUNERAL**

*Put your
grievances to
rest on
Friday,
November 6th
1:30-3:30 PM*

**VIEWING
Thursday,
November 5
1:30 PM-5 PM
Lower
Blackburn**

**Alpha Nu Omega
Inc., Lambda
Chapter**

**Founder's Week
2009**

11/1/09

**Call to Chapel
11am**

11/2/09

**Prayer Booth
10am-5pm**

**Bible Study 7pm
Blackburn Rm.
148/150**

**11/3/09 Warm
Clothes Drive
Various Dorms
(All Week)**

11/4/09

**Hangin with
the Brothers:**

**ANQ Fraternity
Informal
Interest Mtg.**

**7:29 pm Locke
Rm. 257**

11/5/09

**ANQ Sorority
Formal Interest
Mtg.**

7:29pm TBA

11/6/09

**Prayer Walk
12:29pm (meet
at flagpole)**

**Prayer 1pm @
Flagpole**

*Phenomenal
Women
Ministry*

Presents:

"Bag Lady"

**Howard
University
Transfer
Student
Association
Production**

**Tuesday
November 3,
2009**

**Speaker:
Delores
Beamon w/
Songstress
Sheri Samuels**

7:00pm

**Blackburn
Gallery Lounge**

**If you are
struggling with
haggage and
not living your
best life, come
and find out
how to
"Pack Light"**

What's Happening in Residence Life?

Monday, November 2, 2009

ResFest Fair

Meridian Hill Hall Reading Room - 7:00 PM

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Obama Documentary

Meridian Hill Hall Reading Room - 7:00 PM

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Alcohol & Alcholism Speak-Out

Meridian Hill Hall TV Room - 7:00 PM

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study

Drew Hall Lounge - 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Drew Hall Council

SIMBA Mentoring at Maya Angelou Public Charter School

Meet in Drew Hall Lounge at 8:00 AM

Sunday, November 8, 2009

Sunday Cipher: Open Mic

Drew Hall Lounge 9:00 PM

"There's No Life, Like Residence Life"