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# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 93, NO. 60

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

**Tuesday's Notebook****BREAKING NEWS**

ACCORDING TO CNN, DR. CONRAD MURRAY, THE PHYSICIAN AT THE CENTER OF THE INVESTIGATION OF MICHAEL JACKSON'S DEATH, HAS RESUMED HIS PRACTICE.

**METRO**

READ ABOUT RECENT EFFORTS TO MAKE THE HOLIDAYS BRIGHTER FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE LESS FORTUNATE.

**LIFE & STYLE**

SINGER RIHANNA EMBRACES HER DARK SIDE ON HER LATEST ALBUM "RATED R." TAKE A LOOK AT THE ALBUM REVIEW.

PAGE 5

PAGE 8

## Students Gear Up for World AIDS Day

### HU Takes a Stand Against HIV/AIDS

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON  
Campus Editor

Since watching the TLC "Waterfalls" music video to her sophomore year at Howard University, biology major Havian Nicholas has turned her passion into making a change. With World AIDS Day approaching on Dec. 1, Howard University Student Association (HUSA) will host the first annual world Aids benefit concert titled, "Love. Live. Lift."

The concert will take place in Armour J. Blackburn Ballroom the day before World AIDS Day on Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. The tickets are \$5 with all proceeds going to "Keep A

Child Alive," a non-profit organization dedicated to providing treatment and support to children and families living with HIV and AIDS in Africa and India. The tickets can be bought in Cramton Auditorium before the concert or a donation of \$5 can be made at the door the day of the concert.

Two RSVP points will be given to students who bring their ticket to either the community director of their dormitory or the office of residence life. Some of the per-



Annual World AIDS Day is on Dec. 1. Each year, colleges across the country provide free HIV/AIDS testing and information in order to promote awareness.

Faraday Okoro - Photo Editor

formers from both Howard and the D.C. community will include GWN, Rampage, Miss Howard Kendall Isadore, D.I.V.A., Tenn Stacks, and Courtney Salters.

As of 2007, 33 million people are living with HIV and AIDS, since 1981 more than 25 million

&gt; See AIDS, page 3.

### CASCADE Sets Tone For HIV Awareness

BY BRITTANY JACOB  
Contributing Writer

General body meetings are not the normal forums for discussion of HIV on Howard's campus, but attendees at the last C.A.S.C.A.D.E. meeting used the setting to have fun while learning about the disease that so greatly affects many in the black community.

The group, the Coalition of Activist Students Celebrating the Acceptance of Diversity and Equality (C.A.S.C.A.D.E.) was formerly called the Bisexual Lesbian and Gay Organization of Students at Howard (B.L.A.G.O.S.A.H.), but underwent a name change because of the "negative stigma that went with [the] title," said Amari Lee, president of the organization.

The organization has been active on Howard's campus since 2000, and held its ninth birthday on Oct. 6. They hold general body meetings every Friday.

Last Friday, C.A.S.C.A.D.E. held its first formal induction ceremony.

After the induction, in a large circle of laughs and rambling, an activity called "2 Truths and a Lie" took place. Eventually, it became an informal, extended icebreaker. The game was modified to simply stating your name, hometown and another interesting fact.

The back of the room had a colorful décor of sandwiches of all sorts and canned drinks that would fit every color in the rainbow spectrum. The topic was called, "The Good, Bad and Tasty," a discussion analyzing food and sex.

The next activity, "Levels of Risk," split the room into two groups to work together. Attendees had to arrange an array of papers in order from most risky HIV transmission to least risky.

&gt; See HIV, page 3

## UMD Students Stand for 'Black'

*Students at the University of Maryland protested for diversity, a faculty member*

Photo Courtesy of Gerald Martineau (Washington Post)

University of Maryland students chanted in front of the administration building.

BY SHANNON WHITE  
Contributing Writer

On Nov. 5, students at UMD led a protest to reinstate Associate Provost for Equity and Diversity, Cordell Black, a 30-year faculty member and diversity administrator who was removed from

his administrative position earlier in the week.

The brisk November weather did not stop more than 600 of his classmates at UMD who protested against a decision they believed should not have been made.

"Bring Black Back! Bring Black Back!" was chanted as stu-

dents marched the campus with the determination to demand that their voices be heard.

The students fear that eliminating Black from his administrative position is just the beginning in a plan to slowly cut all of the diversity programs at the university.

"The black population for admissions went down 50 percent this year, and they are taking majors like African American studies and Latino studies and rolling them all into one, calling it 'American Studies,'" said Brandon Isaac, a sophomore at UMD.

College students across the nation have had enough. Protests have become common on college campuses this school year due to administration problems, tuition raises and overall discontent with the direction in which universities are heading.

According to CNN, University of California students (across 4 reported campuses) protested at the end of last week due to the approval of a 32 percent tuition in-

crease and the firing of more than 800 faculty members. The peaceful protest became violent when students were beaten and shot at by a SWAT team. Students at the University of California-Santa Cruz finally surrendered to authorities on Sunday, after three days of sitting in the administration building.

Students at the University of Maryland at College Park (UMD) have seen little results since their protest. UMD sophomore Ike Uzomah explained that the students have organized a group called STARE (Students Taking Action to Reclaim our Education), which has separated into many committees to serve the needs of the students.

"We sat in on a regulations meeting, and asked the provost of his future plans for diversity," Uzomah said. "We also asked him about the plans for Professor Black's replacement."

&gt; See UMD, page 3

## Chapel Assistants Show 'Angel' Side

BY JESSICA LEWIS  
Campus Editor

Christmas time is commonly known as the "Season of Giving." However, for some, the hype falls short of reality as many families are unable to afford gifts to place under a Christmas tree. To help alleviate some of the stress those families face, the Chapel Assistant (CA) organization has dedicated their time to becoming those children's angels.

For almost a decade, CA has donated gifts to more than 400 children annually through "the Angel Tree Project." With the project, they deliver presents to "underserved and underprivileged" children in the D.C. area in seven public schools, including the Middle School of Mathematics and Science, according to Project Coordinator Roschel Williams.

Each child participating in the program is able to make out a Christmas wish list. After the list is made, people of the Howard community are able to donate or sponsor one of the children's wishes. The gifts are then dropped off to the schools during a reception.

According to CA President Aryn Davis, the purpose of it all is to "bridge the gap between the Howard community and the D.C. community."

She said it is about more than giving presents or the tangible gifts the children receive—it is about Howard's presence.

"There's power in presence," she said. Davis said it is her hope that by being there the students can make an impact on the children that lasts longer than material things.

&gt; See ANGEL, page 3

## Colorism Observed, Discussed

*Faculty, students unite to discuss the reasons why 'Black is Beautiful'*

BY MARQUIS H. BARNETT  
Nation & World Editor

of the room, while those students who were darker than the bag were seated on the left.

Addressing the seemingly prevalent African-American issue of colorism, the brothers of Progressive Black Men, Howard chapter and the ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Alpha Chapter held a discussion in the Blackburn Forum that sought to answer the question, "My Black is Beautiful... Right?"

The forum, held last night, consisted of four panelists: Lisa Reeves, associate director of Student Affairs; Roberta McLeod, director of the Armour J. Blackburn University Center; Jocelyn Knight, junior Biology major; and DaQuan Mills, junior sports medicine major.

As the audience entered the room, a gentleman held a brown paper bag to their faces. The students who were lighter than the bag were seated on the right side



Photo Courtesy of Blair Matthews

Monday's colorism discussion included faculty members and students alike.

Michael Cruz, co-moderator of the event and member of Progressive Black Men, Howard chapter, said the test encountered by the audience as they entered

was "reminiscent of the test used to determine which blacks were to gain membership into the country's most prominent universities, as well as fraternities and sororities."

The forum produced several topics of discussion by asking students if they had ever felt like their skin tone caused them to be mistreated or to receive an unfair advantage. The response from the audience was in the affirmative. Students stood to voice how they felt their skin tone had caused affected them.

The lone male panelist, however, expressed that not only did he always wish he had lighter skin, but that his "track record" revealed that he had an affinity to light-skinned women. He did insist, though, that he loved all black women and that he would date a woman from either end of spectrum, assuming she offered him what he was looking for in a woman.



# World AIDS Day (Dec. 1)

## Howard Seeks to Dispel the Myths of the HIV/AIDS Impact on the Black Community

BY LAUREN GASPARD  
Staff Writer

As World AIDS Day rapidly approaches, many are gearing up with heavy campaigns and awareness events to spread the word about the effects of HIV and AIDS.

The question boils down to what we can do to stay aware, and in some cases prevent it. A number of African Americans have fallen victim to HIV and AIDS since the late 1970s, when the fatal disease was first discovered.

In the African-American community, some continue to keep a close eye on their statuses, especially if they are involved in frequent sexual activity. However, there are a number of African Americans and other races across the country who are infected by the silent disease and continue to live their lives unaware.

The acronym AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. Acquired means that the disease is not hereditary, but can develop after birth by way of being contracted through another source and disease, according to

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). AIDS develops from HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus).

HIV can be transmitted by way of blood-to-blood and sexual contact. In some cases, infants can contract HIV through breastfeeding if the mother is infected, the CDC reports.

Once an individual is infected with HIV, the immune system begins to break down, inevitably forming into the AIDS virus. According to more statistics by the CDC, 37 percent of African-American males, and 33 percent of African-American females in the United States were diagnosed with AIDS in 2007.

There are a number of myths and misconceptions that surround the facts about AIDS and HIV in the black community.

"I think most of the myths are just fueled by a lot of igno-

rance," said Erica Johnson, sophomore political science major. "People, especially those in the black community, develop an invincible complex, like HIV/AIDS can't happen to them, like they are exempt."

*"Organizations on Howard's campus must come together to remain at the forefront of African American leadership especially on an issue such as AIDS/HIV."*

*~George Gary, senior public relations major*

A n - other common myth about HIV/AIDS within the black community is the idea of the "down low," with homosexual males being the primary carriers of the virus, transmitting it to their female partners through sexual activity.

"It's a vicious cycle," Johnson said. "Instead of educating ourselves, we continue to go off of what we hear and what we think."

Many black Americans believe a way to dispel the misconceptions is to spread more awareness about the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Target Hope, a service organization on campus, has maintained strong advocacy for HIV/AIDS

awareness at Howard and across the D.C. community.

The second annual "Join the Chain, Make a Change" is a human ribbon formed on The Yard in honor of World AIDS Day on Dec. 1. Target Hope has branched out to schools in the greater D.C. community and all the proceeds will go to the Black AIDS Institute.

"Our main goal is not only to raise money and awareness, but to show solidarity," said George Gary, senior public relations major and Target Hope advisor. "Organizations on Howard's campus must come together to remain at the forefront of African American leadership especially on an issue such as HIV/AIDS."

Students also believe that awareness should be spread about AIDS being a world epidemic and not just an inner-city plague.

"People with HIV/AIDS don't just live in the inner city; they are everywhere," said Joshua Chestang, sophomore business marketing major. "Suburbs, inner cities, rich, poor and middle class are all affected by this. We need to bring all of the communities together creating a total awareness."

## The Truth About Not Knowing

BY GLYNN POGUE  
Staff Writer

Kimberly Greenwood, Howard alumna and registered nurse with D.C. Healthy Start in Ward 8, said she is all too familiar with the effects AIDS has on today's youth.

"I work with expecting mothers in some of the poorest and predominantly black neighborhoods in D.C. The number of young mothers with HIV/AIDS is overwhelming. I've seen far too many cases of young mothers being infected with HIV, leaving their children at risk for contracting the disease as well," Greenwood said.

Numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) bear out Greenwood's point. Even though Black people account for about 13 percent of the U.S. population, they account for 49 percent of all people living with HIV/AIDS in the nation. Adding weight to the statistics, the CDC reports that African Americans do not live as long as people of other races and ethnic groups with the disease. Vogue Lee-McWilliams, a freshman marketing major, is very familiar with the AIDS epidemic and the way it affects the youth. At the age of 12, Vogue started volunteering with the AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta.

"Initially, I only started working with the consortium because my father worked there. But as I got older I fully realized the importance of helping my peers become more knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS. I noticed how uninformed people in our age bracket are. It seems that youth generally understand AIDS, but they don't fully grasp the way the disease is spread and what types of bodily fluids can be harmful," Lee-McWilliams said.

She said today's youth are more concerned with not getting pregnant than catching a disease. From working with the consortium and having known individuals who have died from and are still living with HIV/AIDS, Vogue says that she will continue to "practice very safe sex."

## Safer Sex Facts, How to Do It

• **Where is HIV found?**  
HIV is found in many body fluids, including blood, semen, vaginal fluids and breast milk.

• **How is HIV transmitted?**  
HIV is transmitted through unprotected penetrative (vaginal or anal) and oral sex with an infected person, blood transfusion with contaminated blood, the use of contaminated syringes, needles or other sharp instruments and from an infected mother to her child during pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding.

• **Can you get HIV from casual contact?**  
HIV is not transmitted by day-to-day contact in social settings, schools or in the workplace. Shaking someone's hand, hugging someone, using the same toilet, drinking from the same glass as an HIV-positive person, being exposed to coughing or sneezing by anyone living with HIV cannot infect you.

• **How can you limit your risk of getting HIV through sex?**  
-Abstain from sex  
-Remain faithful in a relationship with an uninfected equally faithful partner with no risky behavior  
-Practice only non-penetrative sex  
-Use male or female condoms correctly each time you have sex

• **In addition to the above, how can you further reduce the risk of HIV infection through sex?**  
-Delay the age you begin to have sexual relations  
-Reduce the number of sexual partners you have  
-Get tested and treated for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

• **What is 'safer' sex?**  
No sexual act is 100 percent safe. Safer sex involves taking precautions that decrease the potential of transmitting or acquiring STIs, including HIV, through sex. Using condoms correctly every time one has sex is considered 'safer' sex.

• **How effective are condoms in preventing HIV?**

Quality-assured male and female condoms are the only products currently available to protect against STIs, including HIV. In order to achieve the protective effect of condoms, they must be used correctly all the time. Incorrect use can lead to condom slippage or breakage, thus diminishing their protective effect.

• **What is a female condom?**  
The female condom is only female-controlled contraceptive barrier method currently on the market. The female condom is a strong, soft, transparent polyurethane sheath inserted in the vagina before sexual intercourse. It entirely lines the vagina and provides protection against both pregnancy and STIs, including HIV, when used correctly at each act of intercourse.

• **What is the risk of getting HIV through body piercing or from a tattoo?**

A risk of HIV transmission exists if non-sterile instruments are used. Instruments that are intended to penetrate the skin should be sterilized and used once, then disposed of or sterilized again.

• **What is the risk of getting HIV from sharing razors with a person living with HIV?**

Any kind of cut using a non-sterile object, such as a razor or knife, can transmit HIV. Sharing razors, knives or other sharp instruments with anyone is not advised, unless they are fully sterilized after each use.

• **Is it ever completely safe to have sex with a HIV-positive person?**

No, there is always a risk of transmission when having sex with a HIV-positive person. The risk can be significantly reduced if condoms are properly used every time one has sex.

Information from UNAIDS.org compiled by Glynn Pogue, Staff Writer.

## Break the Barrier

BY CAMILLE AUGUSTIN  
Staff Writer

About 56,300 new HIV infections occur each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). On average, one new HIV infection occurs every 9.34 minutes a year.

According to the Howard Student Health Center, 486 students tested for HIV/AIDS this semester during the months of September and October. The results of the test cannot be distributed at this time.

In 2008, the D.C. Department of Health reported that one out of every 20 D.C. residents is HIV-positive and one in 50 residents has AIDS.

Born and raised in Washington D.C., resident Gwendolyn Reid said the rate of persons infected with HIV in the area is devastating. D.C. has the highest rates of HIV/AIDS in the nation, she said. To help the fight, her church, Mount Pleasant, reaches out through their ministry program to those people infected with HIV/AIDS.

"Our generation is dying, and you wonder who will run it," Reid said. "HIV can hit anyone's home."

The CDC also reported that more than 1 million people in the United States are living with HIV. Out of those million, 1 out of 5 do not know they have

it. African Americans reportedly account for 48 percent of new HIV infections.

Abdulquadi Olawin, sophomore biology major, said while living in Nigeria, volunteers would often come around to spread the word and bring about HIV/AIDS awareness.

"A lot of people are ignorant of the world around them," Olawin said. "Some people first hear about the disease after they start exhibiting symptoms."

Olawin said he is optimistic that a cure will be found, but the only cure in this present day is prevention. "By working on our lifestyles and the way we handle things, we can go a long way to prevent further spread," he said. "According to the latest information, less than 12 percent of South Africa's population is living with the virus."

According to Reid, her son Jeremiah regularly gets tested for HIV, but one day found out he contracted Chlamydia.

"Some young ladies put their butts on a silver platter to these guys," she said. "Do not get so excited that your getting a piece of butt because you do not know what you really may be getting."

Reid also said that some people are fearful of getting tested, leading to spreading the disease. "It is as if the spirit is willing, but the mind is weak."





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## World AIDS Day Approaches, Students Prepare to Participate

*Continued from FRONT, WALK*

people have died of AIDS in Africa and more than 15 million children have been orphaned, said Nicholas, the social coordinator for HUSA. She said the name of the concert stemmed from her passion about life. "It makes me think about the quality of life and HIV and AIDS is decreasing the quality of life everyday," Nicholas said.

With numerous HIV/AIDS ads, programs and panels, Nicholas said students become complacent to the epidemic. "People get deaf and blind and they can't see," she said. "After a while it doesn't phase them, but as black people we are all connected."

She said the fact that the epidemic could affect anyone should make students want to take a stand. "It could easily be my sister, my friend, or my mom or dad, so it affects me as well," Nicholas said.

Nicholas' passion for the HIV/AIDS struggle began at a young age. She said she remembers seeing the TLC "Waterfalls" mu-

sic video at 8 and asking her older sister why the man, who had HIV, looked the way he did. "I didn't understand," Nicholas said. "I saw the video again in high school during an HIV/AIDS program," she said.

High school is where she began volunteering at a hospital with hopes of becoming a doctor. "I saw so many people get diagnosed and die from HIV/AIDS," Nicholas said. "I wanted to be a doctor, but then I realized they don't do anything—not because they don't want to, but because they can't because of insurance. It made me more interested in public health and fighting for those who didn't have a voice."

After going to Egypt this past summer with chair of the African American studies department Gregory Carr, Ph.D., she said she wasn't happy being complacent and wanted to do something to make a change. Standing over the Nile River, she said she never saw water so clear. "I looked into the river and saw myself. I saw that I have a bigger purpose to take a stand against HIV/AIDS," Nicholas said.

"It made me think, 'What can I do to stop it? What could I do to decrease HIV and AIDS?'" she said. "My summer in Egypt made me think, 'What can I actively do with my passion,'" she said.

Through this concert, Nicholas wants to show Howard students that they can make change and make things happen. She wants students to know that although this is entertaining, they are here for a purpose. "If they leave knowing that they made a contribution to helping HIV and AIDS, no matter what your intentions are, you will leave feeling changed," she said.

She chose to organize a concert to give Howard something different. "So many things such as panels are overdone at Howard and students might not want to go," she said.

"I didn't really know that I could take a public stand and do something until I got to Howard," she said. Her vision came to a reality when students started to call her to ask how they could get involved with the concert.

## Local College Students Protest For Campus Diversity, Faculty

*Just days after the start of the protests in California schools, UMD follows suit*

*Continued from FRONT, UMD*

"Trying to eliminate everything as separate entities and make them into one is not diversity," he said.

The night before, students met and outlined a list of demands. According to Isaac, the students wanted Black's reinstatement and a freeze on all additional layoffs and reorganizations until students, faculty and staff are given a voice in these decisions.

Isaac recalled about how the students met at a location on campus, the Nyumburu Amphitheatre at noon, where he joined in on a call and response led by several student leaders from the black, Latino and LGBT communities. "We marched to McKeldin Library from the Amphitheatre, then to the Administration building," Isaac said. Police were lined up in front of the locked doors of the Administration building watching silently as students taped colorful fliers of their grievances onto the walls.

The fact that they were marching for Black and the overall cause of diversity on a college campus really surprised Isaac. "I never imagined I would experience a taste of what the forerunners of the civil rights felt and fought for half a century ago, in the year 2009," he said.

The Executive Director for Public Affairs, Millree Williams, told The Hilltop about the university's decision. "Black has stepped down from his position;

him regaining the position will not happen," he said. "We are trying to be as efficient and effective as possible by eliminating his position. We expect the facts to speak for themselves."

However, Williams commented that UMD does encourage student action. He said, "We are a major public research university, so we are always looking for diversity in students. We support their right to protest whatever they perceive as an injustice."

Although Williams does not believe removing Black from his position was an injustice, he explained the university's take on diversity. "Many of the ideals the students protested are the same ideals the administration believes. Diversity is very much in our fabric; it's who we are," he said. "We are the most diverse university in the nation. The best and the brightest choose UMD because we offer the best environment that gives the students a wide range of ethnicities."

Just like every protest, the objective is to be heard, and in turn produce results. However, there is no guarantee that results will be produced in every situation. Provost Nariman Farvadin told the students that his decision to remove Black was final. Students still found hope for their efforts; rumors have been flying around the campus that some of their demands may be met. "People have been saying that they might consider rehiring Black," Isaac said. "Hopefully there is a change."

## Angels Hit Howard

*Continued from FRONT, ANGEL*

Williams, a junior biology major who has worked with the project for three years, said there is something rewarding about being able to give a kid Christmas. She said the act of physically handing someone his or her gift means a lot to her.

"They wouldn't get a present otherwise," she said.

Currently, 400 people have pledged to purchase gifts, which has been the goal for the past two years, Williams said. "People still have a heart and are willing to give even though the economy is bad," she said.

Davis said that she hopes everyone gets an angel.

## Campus Org Spreads AIDS Awareness

*Continued from FRONT, HIV*

"It is a good lesson for people—how to protect yourselves during intercourse with an individual whatever your orientation may be," said David Clark, a first year graduate student and first time C.A.S.C.A.D.E. meeting attendee.

Next was a skit about sexually transmitted diseases called "Sex in the City." The activity provided a hands-on experience in preventing HIV.

Kenya Hutton, the master of ceremonies and coordinator of Young Adult Programs at "Us

Helping Us, People Into Living, Inc.," an HIV and AIDS Prevention Agency, said she thinks it is "very important that people know the different levels of risk."

Just when the attendees thought the program was over, a brave man brought the audience to silence with the story of his daily struggle with HIV.

Justin B. Smith, 29, was diagnosed as HIV-positive in 2006 after having unprotected sex with another male.

"I was distraught," Smith said. He went on to show the group of students his daily regimen of medication.

**B. Smith Cooks Southern-Style**

**Barbara Smith**

### The Howard University Bookstore Presents, Lifestyle Expert and Author, B. Smith

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# Student Entrepreneurs Utilize Blackburn Center

BY ALIESE POLK  
Contributing Writer



Faraday Okoro - Photo Editor

Students have taken the opportunity to showcase their accessories, handbags, jewelry, among other things in the bottom level of the Blackburn Center.

Everybody could use some extra cash, but how do you make it? For some Howard University students, the answer was simple.

They turned their hobbies and passions into a business and set up shop in the bottom of Blackburn.

"I took an addiction and turned it into an operation," said Courtney Thompson, the vendor of vintage jewelry and accessories.

The junior marketing major started her own business called DIVA (Divine Intricate Vintage Accessories). She sells handbags, sunglasses, scarves, earrings, rings, necklaces and bracelets that are one-of-a-kind.

Having an entrepreneurial mind set pays. With the help of the School of Business' Entrepreneurship Leadership and Innovation (ELI) Institute, members of the Howard community are able to showcase their businesses in the "Black Marketplace."

The ELI Institute helps entrepreneurs catalyze their businesses by providing them with the knowledge and skills to make their ideas profitable.

"I love shopping and then utilizing my skills to make people look good and feel good," Thompson said. "I think my jewelry just gives that 'umph' to an outfit."

When she is not in Blackburn, she sells out of her room, where she has an entire wall set aside to elegantly display her merchandise.

Zaria Poem, a junior print journalism major, also sells accessories.

She began selling in Blackburn when she was a freshman because it was hard to find a job at 17 years old.

With the positive response from her friends and customers, she too decided to sell from her room.

She said her love for fashion is inspired by her mother who is always wearing accessories to dress up her outfits.

Poem describes her earrings, bracelets, necklaces, scarves and sunglasses as being "funky costume" pieces that go with any outfit.

She prides herself on selling quality items inexpensively.

Everything she offers is \$10.00 and under.

"I am a thrifty shopper, and having that characteristic enables me to connect with consumers," Poem said. "I am a struggling college student too."

Amber Hayes, unable to resist the temptation, stopped at both Poem's and Thompson's tables.

She was enticed by the glitzy jewelry and wanted to buy more than what her budget would allow.

"I like all of your stuff," Hayes said to Poem.

It was difficult for Hayes to pick just a few pieces, and although she only planned on purchasing three items, she ended up with five pairs of statement earrings: one pair was peacock feathers, and another rectangular piece with geometric designs.

"My eyes just seemed to wander. I am a big accessories person, and I have been looking for big earrings," said Hayes, who just cut

her hair and said that statement earrings would be a nice compliment.

Poem and Thompson have entrepreneurial skills that extend beyond selling products.

Both students provide hair styling services to their friends and customers.

Thompson is also a personal shopper; helping students shop for and put together stylish outfits.

The competition is friendly, and they both believe the unique qualities of their products allow them both to be successful.

Not all the businesses are run by students.

Diane Dallas, a former Howard employee, also has a table of accessories downstairs.

Her product line is called Dallas Designs, and features handmade scarves, hats, aprons, oven mitts, pillows, baby blankets and young girls clothing.

Despite having to compete with the younger crowd, she said she enjoys being down there.

"I enjoy meeting people and

interacting with them, and I especially like networking with the other entrepreneurs," Dallas said.

She is also pleased that she has the opportunity to provide customers with the items they need.

"You need clothes?" Dallas asked, as she modeled her handmade jacket, hat and scarf she was wearing.

She receives a lot of business from faculty and staff.

However, students gravitate toward her President Barack Obama pillows and accessories that have the colors representing each Greek organization.

The entrepreneurs usually sell on the first and third Fridays of every month from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Television production major, Jevonne Bowman, was introduced to the worker-owned cooperative by her housemates and is now in business with them, selling the products in Blackburn and from their home.

Their business, called the Collective to Open a Radical Space

in D.C. (CORSDC), promotes social awareness - suggesting that there are alternatives to achieving liberation from capitalism.

They design and produce T-shirts and DVDs to sell and also carry items made by union workers, including trendy organizers and books that are not available in commercial bookstores.

"I have the opportunity to distribute my own work," Bowman said, as she proudly displayed the T-shirt she made.

She is currently fundraising with the goal of opening a clothing and bookstore in the District.

The Blackburn University Center has turned out to be a bright spot for all, even during these tough economic times.

All entrepreneurs have thus far found success, and support from their Bison peers.

With the community's help, they hope to continue to grow their businesses.

# Web Site Allows Students to Track Money

BY ALIESE POLK  
Contributing Writer

Tired from a late night of studying and an early morning class, I was in dire need of a sweet pick-me-up.

So, I headed to Starbucks, ordered a grande iced caramel macchiato and paid with a \$5 bill.

As the cashier handed me back my change, her hand slowly released the crinkled and worn bill, and revealed a red stamp surrounding the circular Federal Reserve design to the left of President George Washington's picture.

The stamp stated, "Track This Bill! www.wheresgeorge.com."

It was not the first time I have found bills with marks and messages, but I was intrigued because this one had a Web address.

She noticed that I was examining the bill, and before I said anything she asked, "Have you heard of Where's George?"

She explained to me that it is a Web site that allows one to track the circulation of United States paper currency.

The site, named after the \$1 bill which displays George Washington's face, was created by Hank Eskin and launched Dec. 23, 1998.

"It's for fun and because it had not been done yet," as stated on the Web site under the FAQs.

Curious to see where my bill had been, I went to the site.

As directed, I entered in the denomination, the year it was produced, the serial number and the zip code of the area where I received it.

The 1995 bill traveled to Madison, Va., Baltimore and Columbia, Md. before it came into my possession in Washington, D.C.

The site provides an entertaining glimpse into the nomadic life of a \$1 bill, as everybody who encounters the bill does not record it.

Since entering the bill two months ago, there have not been any other reported locations.

My George does not have much of a track record compared to others.

The second most recorded bill on the site is 6 years old and has traveled from Florida to Georgia, back to Florida, to Indiana, Arizona, Oregon, New York and Tennessee, a total of 7,293 miles, in two years and 85 days, at an average of 8.9 miles per day.

It is an activity that has peaked the curiosity of many.

enter in the denomination, bill series number, serial number and zip code.

They can also write a message about where and how the bill was found and what kind of condition it is in.

"I'm an ice cream vendor at Blue Mtn. (Mountain) Beach and a PYT (pretty young thing) paid with this bill. She pulled it out of her bikini top! She said her boyfriend found it on a fishing trip. He is one lucky guy, and I don't mean just for finding the bill," said one user in Florida.

track Canadian currency.

Users receive "hits" which notify them of the bill's latest whereabouts any time a new owner enters the information into the site.

The site also calculates the rate at which the bill travels in miles per day.

When viewing the history of the bills, three digits of the bill's serial code are hidden to prevent people from entering fabricated hits.

In an effort to promote the natural circulation of money, the site advises users to spend money as they normally would.

a hobby for many people.

They have created user profiles which display information such as the number of bills they have entered, whether they have sent bills to all 50 states and the District, and their ranking compared to other users.

Some of the "Georgeaholics," those who are "hopelessly addicted," even organize gatherings and conventions to celebrate their unique pastime.

Users compete for a "George Score," which is calculated by how many bills they entered and how



Photo Courtesy of maddisland.org

Wheresgeorge.com tracks the travel habits of different denominations of currency; the site currently houses 5,197,193 registered users and 184,383,051 bills.

There are currently 5,197,193 registered users and 184,383,051 bills that are being followed.

The bills amount to \$877,851,611.

Although all denominations - one, two, five, 10, 20, 50 and 100 - are tracked, the most popular is the \$1 bill.

The \$20 bill is in second place.

Some of the bills are marked with a stamp of the Web site's address, while others are written by hand.

Those who are interested in tracking bills can go to the site,

"Hello from the Big Apple! Found George roaming Times Square," wrote another user.

If participants want to continue to track their bills, they must register with the site.

The site is free. It just requires that one create a login username and password.

According to Where's George? 1,800 new people register each day. The greatest numbers of bills are recorded in California, Pennsylvania and New York.

The Web site was such a hit that in 2001 Eskin created the site Where's Willy? so that people could

While the defacement of a bill is an illegal act, the government determined that the where'sgeorge.com stamps are not vandalism.

The site states that Federal law defines defacing as altering a bill to an extent in which it is prevented from being used.

"Georgers," who are active users of the site, have even developed their own lingo.

A "sleeper" is a bill that takes 100 days or more to get another hit, and a "naked George" is a bill that was spent at a strip club or massage parlor.

Tracking the bills has become

many hits they receive. The top user of the site has entered 1,387,700 bills worth more than \$4 million and has received 276,707 hits.

Where's George? has even been used in research to study human contact and the spread of viruses.

According to *The New York Times*, Dr. Brockmann, an engineering professor at Northwestern University, used the Web site in conjunction with studies from air and commuter traffic patterns to try to predict the spread of the H1N1 virus in May of 2009.



*"It's no use of talking unless people understand what you say."*

*~Zora Neale Hurston~*



*The Hilltop Newspaper celebrates 85  
years of continuous news to Howard  
Students and the community,  
and remaining  
The Daily Student Voice of  
Howard University*



# The City's Homeless Front



## Cleveland Park

BY ALIESE POLK  
Contributing Writer

It's the quintessential movie scene—a quaint town with one main street flanked by shops, restaurants, a school, and a movie theater.

Coming out of the east end of the Cleveland Park Metro station is like stepping into a time machine.

Located in the Northwest quadrant of Washington, Cleveland Park is a suburb-in-the-city with a rich history.

While it is still part of the city, it provides residents with a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of downtown Washington.

"The area is upbeat, but, at the same time it's not too crowded," Damian Miranda said.

The 21-year-old, who is new to the area from San Diego, said he was attracted to the welcoming environment, the friendly mix of people and beautiful scenery.

The residential neighborhood is known for its eclectic style of houses that are reminiscent of the Victorian frame architecture which marked the late 19th century.

These single family houses lined by overflowing trees, display wide front porches, large windows and overhanging eaves. The structures share some of the characteristics that were distinct to summer houses of the elite.

Known to provide a cool breeze, Cleveland Park was the perfect getaway from the city heat. President Grover Cleveland, for whom the area is named after, purchased a farmhouse in 1886 to serve as a summer retreat. His residence, called Oak View, was designated as his summer White House.

Connecticut Avenue runs as the main thoroughfare of the neighborhood, which lies east of Rock Creek Park and north of DuPont Circle. Along the street is the Park and Shop, which provides an array of services to residents. Built in 1930, this low-rise mall was one of the nation's earliest strip malls.

In the three block stretch of road which accommodates all of the neighborhood's shops, food from all over the world can be sampled. Some of the must-go places include the critically acclaimed Mexican restaurant, Alero, Dino, an Italian restaurant, and the pizza shop 2 Amys.

Cleveland Park is home of the famous Uptown Theatre. The small, Art Deco edifice exudes old-town character. The sole screen in the theatre is curved and stands 40 by 70 feet.

"The theater is great! It is one of the best places to watch a movie," said 18-year-old Warren Stopak.

His friends, chimed in with a resounding "yes," and said that it is one of the best theaters in Washington.

The neighborhood, often times referred to as the "street-car suburb" was once reached by streetcars which connected the area to downtown.

Just blocks away from the neighborhood is the National Cathedral. The gothic style cathedral is the second largest in the United States. The National Zoo and the University of the District of Columbia is also nearby.

"It's nice, because everything is within walking distance," Stopak said.

Born and raised in the neighborhood, he is familiar with the surrounding area, and said that it's a good place to explore, especially on a nice day.

## Martha's Table

BY JESSICA HARPER  
Contributing Writer

As the economic downturn threatens the livelihoods of American families and individuals, organizations geared toward the homeless, such as U Street's Martha's Table, increase their action.

Martha's Table, a non-profit organization, participates in the United Way and Combined Federal Campaign. It will crystallize its response on Nov. 21 when it hosts a walk-a-thon on the National Mall to help fight homelessness and poverty in Washington.

Director of Development Ann Haskins-Brookover expects the walk to generate funding for the organization. Due to working-class, poor, homeless families and individuals requiring more assistance to sustain their living, Haskins-Brookover has noted a change in the number of people requesting Martha's Table services.

"We used to give out 80 food pantry baskets once a month. Now we distribute more than 300," Haskins-Brookover said.

Staff and volunteers at Martha's Table, one of two organizations in the District with an accredited after-school program, prepare and provide food to the McKenna's Wagon, "Feed the Hungry" campaign and offer donated, discounted clothing and chinaware to at-risk children age infant to 18 and families throughout the city.

The Martha's Table crew also facilitates after school programs and reading groups, maintains computer rooms and provides other enrichment opportunities daily. The organization receives funding from a variety of individuals, foundations, corporations and the federal government.

"We try to get money from as many different sources as possible," Haskins-Brookover said.

Nearly 10,000 volunteers give their time and talents to Martha's Table. More than two dozen of these helpers attend Howard University and are faithful members of the Political Science Society.

ety, Circle K International and various sororities and fraternities.

Howard transfer student Paris Flag serves as the community service organizer for the Political Science Society.

Flag said Howard student volunteers want to help any way they can.

"Volunteering for an organization like Martha's Table gives you insight," Flag said. "It opens your eyes. We're expecting all our service experience with Martha's Table to culminate with our participation in the walk-a-thon."

The Political Science Society provides 30 volunteers to Martha's Table, some of whom will participate in the nonprofit's reading corner—an upstairs room currently filled with books soon to be transformed into a renovated, library-like space.

Martha's Table Volunteer Program Coordinator Kimberly Lyons said Howard students contribute greatly to the organization's overall productivity.

"The Howard students help us in a lot of different ways," Lyons said. "We had a U Street Festival in September, and they assisted with that. The students not only volunteer in the traditional sense. In addition to the food and clothing drives, they make sandwiches off-site and bring them to Martha's Table."

Haskins-Brookover expects the demand for volunteers to remain high.

"We always need volunteers, especially for McKenna's Wagon and our street food distribution team," she said. "We will work with folks to find a volunteer opportunity that is of interest to them."

Haskins-Brookover noted that the need for food has nearly tripled as a result of the economic downturn, something she expects to remain unchanged.

"Volunteerism has certainly surged," she said. "But, the need has surged as well."



Photo Courtesy of Martha's Table Web site  
Martha's Table Volunteers make a difference.

she felt compelled to do something to help commemorate the event.

"This is a beginning to what we really ought to be doing," Rousson said. "Instead of just marching, we ought to make a donation and get groups of people together, maybe 200 at a time. The Clinton Administration sent a message to a country that was becoming more self-centered. Obama's theme of 'Yes, We Can' couldn't be better, and it is part of the reason why the crowd is so large today."

Members of homeless communities currently benefiting from the services that organizations like Arlington Community Foundation, Martha's Table and Catholic Charities provide also participated in the walk.

These members included Harriet Tubman shelter residents Barbara Hariston and Tomeka Emmanuel. Clasp matching Catholic Charities signs, both women explained their reasons for walking.

"I've been here two months, and it's so nice," Hariston said. "I came to this walk to give back."

Emmanuel agreed, adding, "We've benefited from our shelter so much. I love being here because women especially need to help each other."

Both women credited the Obama Administration with inspiring more people to volunteer.

"I still believe in his message of service," Hariston said. "The recession is making everything worse, and I just wish more people would give. Obama has set aside more money for us. That's a start."



Photo Courtesy of Bread for the City Web site  
During the holiday season, "Bread for the City" assists those less fortunate in the D.C. community by offering holiday meals.

## Bread for the City

BY JESSICA HARPER  
Contributing Writer

The holiday season usually conjures one of two images—either plump, golden turkeys or an assortment of daintily wrapped gifts.

But not everyone enjoys the full trappings of what Thanksgiving and Christmas offer. Some families see those special days as a time to save, not spend.

Recognizing this fact, District nonprofit organization "Bread for the City" (BFC) continues its "Holiday Helpings" program this fall and its tradition of providing low-income families with complete holiday feasts throughout the months of November and December, which, according to the BFC staff, include "turkey and all the trimmings."

"We offer a comprehensive set of resources," said Greg Bloom, BFC media spokesman. "We give them in a way that restores dignity and respect in those who are less fortunate."

Much like U Street nonprofit organization Martha's Table, BFC receives its funding from a mix of sources.

"Nearly a third comes from foundations," Bloom said. "We also get assistance from individuals, local and federal government."

Founded in 1974 near the Shaw neighborhood, BFC offers free services to low-income residents in D.C. These services range from meeting the basic needs of food and clothing to the more complex necessities of medical care, legal and social services.

BFC started as two orga-

nizations—BFC being one and Zacchaeus Free Clinic being the other. The two eventually merged.

After decades of helping numerous residents in Shaw, BFC expanded its scope east of the Anacostia River in 2002 with the creation of its Southeast Center. Southeast Center staff distributed groceries to Anacostia residents and fed nearly 3,000 of them on its first day of operation more than five years ago.

Howard University student volunteers work closely with BFC volunteer coordinator Erin Garnaas-Holmes in gathering and distributing food items to the city's poor.

"The Howard students are active in our gleaning program," said Bloom. "They head to regional farms to pick and gather food that would otherwise go to waste."

Bloom said the volunteers play a crucial role in the sustenance of the BFC.

"We're always looking for intake volunteers," he said. "That's a harder position to fill because people need to be trained for that and it requires a higher commitment."

And while Bloom admits the worsening economy has drawn more low-income families to organizations like his, he said, "the market has been crumbling for a while."

"The market crash is another repercussion of an unstable economy," he said. "It has been happening for a few years now."

In years past, more than 8,000 poor families have benefited from BFC's holiday feasts. A mere donation of \$28 feeds a family of four. Donations can be made through the BFC Web site.



Jessica Harper - Contributing Photographer  
Tomeka Emmanuel and Barbara Hariston, homeless women from the Harriet Tubman shelter participated in the walk.

## Volunteers Walk for Homeless

BY JESSICA HARPER  
Contributing Writer

Thousands of D.C. residents and visitors descended on the National Mall Saturday morning to walk for the homeless and raise money and awareness about the less fortunate. Greeted with sunshine and a light, fall breeze, the marchers assembled at the Smithsonian a little before 9 a.m. to begin their trek around the historic Rotunda.

Sponsored by Fannie Mae's "Help the Homeless Program," the walk-a-thon is now in its 22nd year. This year, it sought to make

an impact on the lives of more than 12,000 homeless people.

Participants included U Street nonprofit Martha's Table, an organization that seeks to serve the needs of low-income and homeless children, families and individuals, and Catholic Charities, the largest private network of social service organizations in the U.S. that seeks to support families, weaken poverty and revitalize communities. Martha's Table considers Howard University students as some of its most avid volunteers.

Arlington Community Foundation, a nonprofit based in

northern Virginia that recently started a homeless prevention fund, was one of the several organizations to make an appearance.

Volunteer coordinator Patty Limjap expressed elation over her organization's presence. "We want to support the nonprofits in Arlington that serve the homeless. So, we're here representing!" she said. "We are a relatively small organization, but that doesn't mean our impact is small."

Aside from nonprofits, everyday citizens also lent their legs and pocket books to the occasion. Minnesota native and 20-year District resident Vivian Rousson said



Did you know?

Ashanti will be putting down the mic in favor of reality television in the near future. According to sources close to the same team behind hit television series "Ugly Betty" and "It's On With Alexa Chung," Ashanti has signed on to a development deal.

J. Lo is now calling herself Lola.

Robert Rosen has accused Chris Brown of going Mike Tyson on him at the fitness club after Rosen attempted to take pictures. Brown says he's not to blame for the paparazzi incident at LA Fitness club last May.

- Compiled by Cierra Jones, Life & Style Editor of Vibe.

## Students Embrace Howard as the 'Mecca'

BY SURITA TAYLOR  
Contributing Writer

"Welcome to the Mecca, welcome home." These words are often heard by members of the incoming Howard family as they stand on the well-manicured lawn called "The Yard," waiting patiently for the moment they would be pinned by welcoming upperclassman and officially become a Bison.

Howard University has historically been described as the pinnacle of black education, the epitome of African-American achievement, the black Harvard, and a place that produces legends and creates leaders in a wide variety of areas.

"Howard is the only school that I applied to. I love it here," said Marcy Jagdeo, a senior political science major. The Guyana native came to Howard for a variety of reasons.

"I like the fact that there's a large international population. The history of the school is amazing, and many people have come and have done amazing things. My goal is to do the same. I want to make a change," Jagdeo said.

Jagdeo's love for Howard is shared by many students upon their entrance at the university.

"I came to Howard because it is close to Baltimore, my hometown, yet far enough away for me to maintain my independence," said Ako-Akeem Boyd, a freshman computer engineering major. "But most of all, [I came to Howard] because it is the mecca, where a lot of stuff seems to have started."

But what is "the Mecca" to Howard's own? What is a mecca? According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a mecca is a place regarded as a center for a specified group, activity, or interest. More

specifically, Muslims must travel to the mecca—the holiest place in Islam—as part of Hajj (a pilgrimage) at least once in his or her lifetime. Being clearly defined in its most common form, Howard as the Mecca can now be discussed.

"The Mecca" is an all-encompassing, highly-coveted educational institution called Howard University. "The Mecca" is the spirit and drive of black coeds facing adversity back in the 1920s. It is the tradition of families attending year after year. "The Mecca" is the real H.U. The Mecca is the home of Zora Neale Hurston, Thurgood Marshall and Dorothy Burnett Porter. It is the birthplace of five of the divine nine organizations. It is students discovering an in-depth look at the African-American struggle.

"The Mecca" means having a better homecoming than any other university. It is a 24-hour catwalk. "The Mecca" means long nights in the Health Sciences library, preparing for a day overwhelmingly filled with finals. "The Mecca" means undeniably beautiful spring semesters, where hanging on The Yard is the move. It is the place where a student is treated less like a number, and more like a family member. "The Mecca" means community. "The Mecca" means love.

Roberta McLeod, the director of the Blackburn Center, has been working for Howard University since 1980 and has witnessed and been responsible for numerous changes on the campus, both big and small. She was responsible for updating the football field from mud to turf in the 1980s. Working with the Howard University family for so long has instilled an enormous amount of pride within her, but at the same time, disappointment.

"I love Howard, but I have to battle with students to love Howard



Zelena Williams - Photo Editor

Howard University is often referred to as "the Mecca" and "the black Harvard." Students who attend are held to high expectations.

and be more respectful," McLeod said. "I feel that Howard is the most comprehensive, historically black university in America. We can't afford to live on the concept of 'the Mecca' if we aren't living up to its expectations and purpose."

The social atmosphere of Howard changes every year, depending on the attitudes and actions of students.

"Back in the day there was a certain sophistication about a Howard student. In this generation, we have a lot of brilliant students who want to act like thugs, and girls who have a lowered level of respect for

themselves," she said.

In other areas, the students have gone up and down in progression. McLeod said this year's student government association is the most politically active she has seen in years. However, she added, the students at Howard have become very complacent.

McLeod offered advice to the student body. "Dr. Ribeau is trying to make us into what we represent in our conversation—the Capstone, 'the Mecca'—but we must stop living in this understanding of us being at 'the Mecca' until we establish ourselves as such," she said.



Photo Courtesy of concreteloop.com

Rihanna recently released "Rated R," her first studio album since her widely-publicized domestic violence incident with former boyfriend Chris Brown.

## Rihanna Reintroduced as 'R'

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON  
Campus Editor

Just nine months after the highly-publicized incident with her then-boyfriend Chris Brown and the surfacing of a TMZ photo showing a bitten, black-eyed and bruised-lip Rihanna, the Bajan singer is back and "Rated R."

While her third album, "Good Girl Gone Bad," introduced the bad girl side of Rihanna with risqué lyrics, a new eclectic rocker look and a bold, new haircut, "Rated R" shows that Rihanna has no signs of turning back.

"Rated R" may not be a motion picture, but with her fourth album Rihanna takes us on an emotional rollercoaster suitable for those heartbroken lovers, undercover gangsters, and flirtatious bad girls. The album is a confession of the ups and downs of Rihanna. Listening to it is like turning the pages of her diary, dark times and all.

With the release of the slow-burning love outcry "Russian Roulette" as her single, Rihanna prepared her audience for a darker side of her. The song, written by Ne-Yo, compares the game of Russian roulette to the game of love. In the song, that starts with a heartbeat and ends with a gunshot, Rihanna sings, "I'm terrified but

I'm not leaving/ I know that I must pass this test." In "Rockstar 101" produced by Tricky Stewart, Rihanna sings, "I would never play the victim." Half-shaved blond hair with no boyfriend in sight, Rihanna leaves an open door for listeners to create their own perspective with songs about the downfalls of love and bad breakups.

While there are no soulful R&B tracks, this does not stop Rihanna from pouring out her heart over a familiar goth, rock auto-tuned track. In "Fire Bomb," she wants the memories of her past lover to burn so she won't hurt any more. She sings, "The lovers need to clear the road, cause this thing is ready to blow/ I just want to set you on fire so I won't have to burn at all."

"Photographs" reflects on a past relationship, with lyrics reminiscing on the past. "Today would be better if it were yesterday/ so happy and lovely hey hey." The song that most connects to her toxic relationship with Brown is "Stupid In Love." The Bajan singer announces, "I may be dumb, but I'm not stupid in love." In the song, Rihanna expresses how her friends called her an "idiot" for staying in the relationship.

Reflections on lost love and heartache are not the only topics Rihanna sings about on "Rated R." The album

introduces Rihanna's new and boastful naughty girl persona. On "Hard," Rihanna lets it be known that she's not going anywhere. The track features hip-hop artist Young Jeezy. She sings "That Rihanna reign won't let up...I'm a rock this s\*\*t like fashion, as in goin' til they say stop/ and my runway never looked so clear/ but the hottest b\*\*h in heels right here."

Rihanna gives us gangster on "G4L," which stands for "gangsta for life." She sings, "I lick the gun when I'm done/ 'cause I know that revenge is sweet." Fans may be surprised by the track that definitely takes the album to rated R status and tells listeners to beware of Rihanna.

The songwriters and producers on "Rated R" included R&B artists Ne-Yo and Justin Timberlake. Tricky Stewart also appeared on various tracks. The album features new songwriter Ester Dean. While the album is lyrically pleasing, there aren't any tracks that showcase Rihanna's vocal talent. Most of the tracks include auto-tune and toneless talking in place of singing.

"Rated R" may be too dark for some to handle, but it's likely that all listeners will find at least one song they can relate to.

ALBUM REVIEW: 4/5

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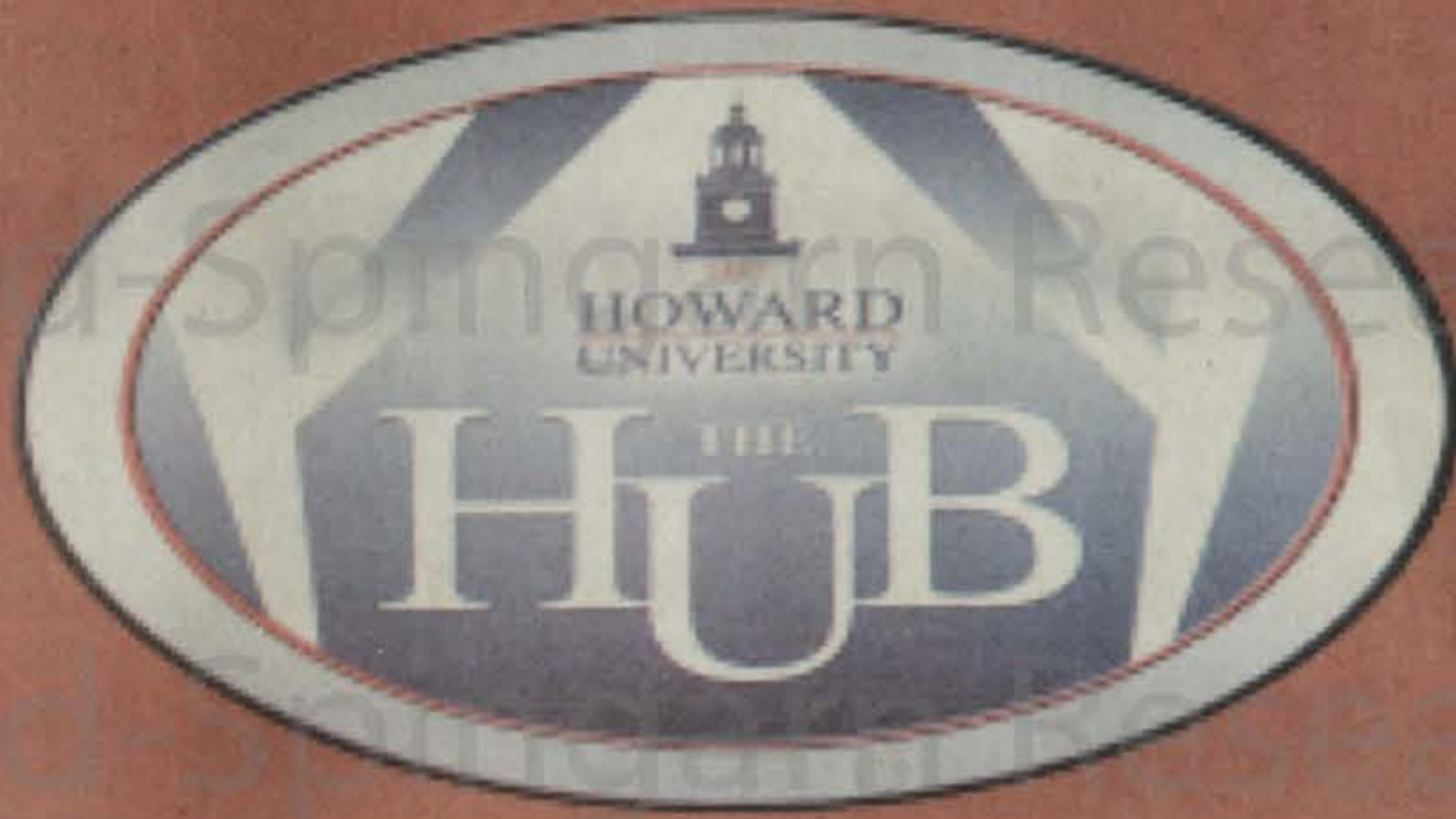
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Photo Courtesy of US News

## Let's Remember the Real Reason for the Season

The last Thursday of every November brings a time for families to gather over good food and share in all the laughter that comes along with home. Discouragingly, the day deemed "Thanksgiving" seems to only mean two days off of school to a lot of students, when we all know that there is a much deeper meaning behind the holiday.

The name gives more literal translation to the meaning than anyone could ever ask for—it is a day for which we are to give thanks for all that has been given to us, and to be hopeful for the things that we aspire to have.

As students, we should be especially thankful on this day, because we have what a lot of people dreamed about, but could never achieve—a quality education. Aside from that, we need to be thankful for the lives that we live. Yes, bad things happen

to us. Yes, we have problems with the Administration building. But what about the student who could not get their financial aid problems resolved and had to move back home to work? What about the girl who never got the chance to go to college, because her family did not

### Our View:

*Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful for what you have, and hopefully what you aspire to get.*

keep adequate records to get financial aid?

No matter how "bad" things get at Howard, we are still in college and we have to remember that there are many a person who has it a lot worse than we do.

More than anything,

Thanksgiving is a time for us to look at what we have and smile. We should smile because we have worked hard to get where we are, and we are not going to stop. We get caught up in thinking about the food we get to eat or the great deals we are going to find on "Black Friday," but we cannot allow ourselves to get lost in the commercial reasons that we celebrate the day for giving thanks. So here is our challenge to you:

As you sit down with your family to eat Thanksgiving dinner, be mindful that some students will not be going home for this holiday. Be mindful that you were not promised the opportunity to share those moments with your family. And be mindful that Thanksgiving is only one day, but you have the ability to let your thanks show year-long in your actions toward others who do not have what you have.

## Perspective A Precious Topic

I would like to preface my perspective by first saying that I genuinely appreciate and take pride in attending Howard University, the Mecca of black education. We are comprised of people from all over the world and all walks of life.

Coming to college opened my eyes to so many other different points of view and allowed me to develop an appreciation of the opinions and cultures of others. However, some things go a little too far.

We have all seen the movie "Precious" and many of us have read the book about a teenage girl who has been through more trials and tribulations than most endure in a lifetime. However, she finds the strength and courage to push on. She suffers from things that so often plague the black community but sadly get swept under the rug. Nothing about the situations in this movie are remotely amusing, which is why I am genuinely confused as to why there was a cartoon mocking the character Precious and actress Gabourey

Sidibe.

There was a cartoon in yesterday's *Hilltop* of an Oscar with a caption that read "If Precious is nominated, can someone please tell her that I am NOT filled with chocolate!" ...ummm, are you serious? Upon first glance I dismissed it as a tacky and distasteful joke, but as I sat in class and thought about it, it began to really bother me. Now I won't pretend that I have never made an inappropriate joke or comment, but I would never post such foolishness in *The Hilltop*, a publication representing Howard University, my university, your university.

This cartoon represents something that plagues our generation. There is a general lack of seriousness. Anyone who knows me knows that I love to joke around. I can be just as silly as the next person.

However, and forgive me for sounding cliché, there is a time and a place. With all the heavy and heart-breaking subject matters that surround the movie "Pre-

cious," why is there a need to try and find humor in it? What part of the movie was humorous? Teenage pregnancy? No. How about Rape? No. HIV? Maybe childhood obesity? No, not those either. That's what I thought too.

These types of issues are all too common place, and it's easy not to be phased by them when you aren't directly affected by them, which is why a movie such as "Precious" was so excellent in confronting said issues head on.

Now if the subject matter of this movie was too serious and you found genuine humor in the cartoon, maybe you should transfer... However, being the intelligent Bison that I know we are, let's realize what we represent and stand for in both the black community and abroad. Let's hold ourselves to higher standards and accept nothing less.

- Whitney Hopkins  
Senior Psychology Major

## Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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



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

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

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