

Howard University

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# THE HILLTOP HOLIDAY

Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009

*Edition*

## Top 10 Resolutions for Howard

New Year's holiday is a time for reflection about the previous year and a time to make resolutions that do not repeat the mistakes of previous years. This year, some of Howard's problems have been recognized on a national scale as a result of the Sept. 4 2009 protest. The Hilltop has compiled a list of things Howard University should do to address its problems.

1. Critically analyze at the condition of Moorland-Spingarn. It is one thing to say that the research center will not close and another to actually evaluate the conditions within the library that caused the director, who has been responsible for the upkeep of the center for 20 years, to say it is "in danger" of closing.

2. The purge process and the housing wait-list need to be evaluated. The process may have been needed when it was first implemented for federal financial matters; however, should it have been a temporary solution? Nancy Cantor of the accreditation team and The Hilltop columnist and HUSA Vice-President Jerome Joseph have publicly said a better solution needs to be found. Hopefully the new chief operating officer can help the university find that solution for 2010.

3. Inform students about the recycling program. As a result of student demands for a recycling plan, one was implemented in 2009. In 2010, Howard should make an effort to inform the students, staff, and faculty about the plan, where the bins are, what the different bins are, and what to recycle by making it obvious. Howard should consider painting the bins and placing signs above them informing students how to recycle using the bins.

4. Continue to improve customer service. According to University Spokesperson Kerry Ann Hamilton, student representatives are supposed to meet with Enrollment Management Directors to discuss concerns and work on solutions. Students should see be able to see the results.

5. Between November and January, 22 buildings should have new ADA Doors. It took a protest to stimulate this change. For 2010, Howard should work on being proactive instead of reactive. Administration should finish work on the buildings as well as the nine new doors that are supposed to be installed between January and July and consider surveying students to see what the problems are or establishing a University grievance system.

6. Fill the open positions. President Ribeau said a new provost and vice president of Student Affairs would be selected in December and take office in January. Students were able to interview the vice-presidential candidates; however, no candidates for the position of Provost have been brought to campus.

7. Fix the libraries. Students complain about the conditions of the both the Undergraduate Library and Founders Library, and some students are not aware of any changes being made. Administration should consider publicizing the minutes of the Library Advisory Committee as well as improvements to the interior of the library.

8. Make students want to stay in the housing on-campus. Radiators have burst, heat hasn't been turned on during some cold nights, rolling black-outs have occurred and Internet has gone out for extended periods of time in Slowe Hall alone. Other dorms have experienced similar problems, such as the power outage in the West Towers for a day during Thanksgiving Break.

9. Find different ways to communicate with students. E-mailing students important information may not be an effective method of communication when Howard e-mail systems and Blackboard systems are flawed and ineffective.

10. Make students feel secure on campus. Random people have wandered into students' rooms and on elevators, walking right past security. Students need to feel safe on campus.

By Jessica Lewis, Campus Editor

*Happy  
Holidays!*







## The Year 2009: Truly One of a Kind...



Zelena Williams - Photo Editor

The Rev. Al Sharpton was just one more guest speaker at the symposium, alongside Spike Lee.



Photo Courtesy of Maria Sonora

This summer, the world lost one of the largest icons in history, King of Pop Michael Jackson.

Cameo, below, was one of many performers at the 2009 Yardfest show. Yardfest, part of the Homecoming tradition, featured other artists such as Fabolous, The Clipse, Melanie Fiona and DC's own Wale.



2009 began with the election of the first black president Barack Obama with people galore entering the District like madmen while, at Howard, we celebrated with Spike Lee and the Refresh Symposium and we put our own spin on an Inaugural Ball but what came next were the times when candy, T-shirts, and debates invaded everyone's lives – following HU's own taste of politics with student council, HUSA and Undergraduate Trustee elections, everyone became a part of the bigger picture and 'turned their swag on', but not until all the neos made their debuts on The Yard, which was followed by the infamous second annual Howard-Hampton cabaret which ended with some of us inside and some of us on the curb, but the class of 2009 graduates couldn't wait for the 2009 Commencement Ceremony with keynote speaker Gwen Ifill as the graduates entered the real world, other students spent the summer interning, taking classes, or working summer jobs but the whole world stopped in June with the death of the King of Pop which inspired the BET Awards — which we either loved or hated — leading into the school year where everything would change just a few weeks after freshman move-in as fed-up HU students came together with a list of demands and took a stand with a protest on Sept. 4, but the anger turned into joy when Kendall Isadore became Howard's first Miss HBCU, leading into one of the best Homecoming celebrations at Howard, bringing back the poetry cipher and introducing the international showcase with a variety of new and fresh talent performing at YardFest — even some old heads like Cameo showed up and showed out, but before leaving for Thanksgiving break, Spike Lee made yet another appearance, this time encouraging students with a future in film and so now, here we are in December, where masses of students migrate to the iLab and "club" UGL to actually get work done, grinding before ending the semester and coming back for the year 2010. We'll see you there!

By Tahirah Hairston, Campus Editor



# CASH FOR BOOKS



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## *The Give Back: Where Can We Volunteer?*



Photo Courtesy of Paul Clarke Nonprofit Research Center

During the winter break, students decide to either take on jobs or volunteer within their communities. Some options include serving at food kitchens to feed the homeless, donating toys to charity and keeping the elderly company during the holiday season.

The holiday break is a time to enjoy time with family and friends and relax from the stresses of school and work. However, with the intense stresses to ensure that this holiday break goes as well as we want, it's easy to get lost in it all.

Volunteering throughout the holiday break is an excellent way to give back to the local D.C. community and the communities in your respective states. No, you will not get RSVP points for this, but it's an excellent way to improve the holiday for others and it makes you truly appreciate what you have.

When looking for volunteer opportunities, keep in mind that it may be initially limited. Many organizations intend to hold on to volunteers for year-round periods and don't want to train a person for short time frame.

However, this shouldn't discourage you as there are still plenty of organizations that need help during the holiday

season.

Here is a list of some possible ideas:

### **1. Serve at a food kitchen:**

So Others May Eat and Martha's Table are some local examples of this. Usually, no training is necessary and while it's preferred that volunteers schedule an appropriate time to serve, walk-ins are not turned away. Soup kitchens rarely close and assist those who may miss out on a holiday feast.

**2. Volunteer at your local homeless center:** At Christmas they also need help preparing and serving meals. Homeless Centers also need volunteers to hand out gifts and organize donations.

**3. Help out at a kids Christmas party at the local Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, or Recreational Center:** Many community and non-profit organizations put out a Christmas party or event for children and often need volunteers to help with games, crafts, etc.

**4. Volunteer at a local senior's home or hospital:** Many people do not have family members to come and see them. Everyone enjoys a visit during the holiday season and you could take them out, play a game with them, or just sit and talk. This will mean a lot to them.

**5. Donate toys to charity or participate in a local Toys for Tots drive:** During the holiday season many charities and organizations acknowledge that with increasing unemployment and a weak economy many children will not receive as many luxuries as the rest of us. You can help out some kids by donating some of your old toys or buying some for them.

**6. Help out at Christmas Day Camps:** Christmas Day camps are offered for kids over the holidays and need volunteers to help make crafts and supervise children. The camps are offered in many states and cities from the Pittsburgh YMCA to the community organizations in Utah.

**7. Help out at a local food or clothing drive:** You can not only donate clothes, but you can assist in their collection. Local Salvation Army and homeless shelters conduct such drives.

**8. Volunteer at a religious institution such as a church:** Churches have plenty of events which are fairly often. From clothing drives, to events for children, help for the homeless, food drives, and other activities.

**9. Volunteer at your local Salvation Army:** The latest news reports that the organization is looking for volunteers and could use your help. The organization helps with a range of issues facing the needy and you can help them out.

**10. Volunteer at Toys for Tots:** We mentioned Toys for Tots earlier, but they are also in need of volunteers. You can do more than collect and donate toys and can begin organizing and engage in more administrative tasks if you would like to volunteer for a longer period than the holiday.

*By Ollie Montgomery, Staff Writer*





## Show Me the Money: 10 Possible Jobs for Us

The last day of classes has finally arrived and as students prepare to leave school and return home for the holiday break, many are looking for temporary jobs to help offset holiday shopping costs and sustainability during the month long break. With only a month off from school, students may find it difficult to find jobs that will hire them for such a short time frame. Look no further!!! As a gift from The Hilltop to you, here's a list of the top 10 places to work by region, so no matter where in the country your headed, we've got you covered!

### West Coast

Traveling to the land of Snoop Dogg and TheNew Boyz? Check out these three places that are perfect for temporary employment.

#### 1. Fred Meyer Supermarket

One of Oregon's premiere supermarkets, is a perfect place for temporary employment. Being a cashier or bagger is a quick and easy way to make a little extra cash in your downtime.

[www.fredmeyer.com](http://www.fredmeyer.com)

#### 2. Jamba Juice

Originating in Los Angeles, Jamba Juice has now expanded its franchise and has become one of the top preference sports for quality shakes and smoothies. Jamba Juice also offers part time employment that is sure to 'shake' up your holiday season.

[www.jambajuice.com](http://www.jambajuice.com)

#### 3. In & Out Burger

A staple of California, In & Out Burger has been nationally recognized as the best fast food stop. Not a lot of pride goes into flipping burgers are shaking fries, but its a sure way to put cash in your pockets.

[www.in-n-out.com](http://www.in-n-out.com)

### Midwest

Headed to Kanye's Hometown, or maybe to the Motown Capital of the world? Make sure to hit up these local midwest favorites

#### 1. Broadway In Chicago

One of Chicago's best regional theatres is constantly looking for ushers for their traveling shows. Work weekends and nights and get up to \$50.00 per show. Greeting and seating theatre patrons is as easy as making

money gets!

[www.broadwayinchicago.com](http://www.broadwayinchicago.com)

#### 2. Meijer Supermarket

A favorite grocery story of Detroit, Meijer is just another option for students in the Detroit area to go to make some extra money for their holiday season.

[www.meijer.com](http://www.meijer.com)

#### 3. Sears Department Store

Founded in Chicago years ago, the Sears Roebuck and Company Department store still strives today and always looks to hire people seasonally around the holiday period.

[www.sears.com](http://www.sears.com)

### East Coast

Maybe you're staying in the DMV or headed to burrows of New York. These places offer loads of last minute

employment! Check it out!

#### 1. Duane Reade

The Walgreens of New York, its a great place to make a few extra dollars. Set your own hours, create your own paycheck!

[www.duanereade.com](http://www.duanereade.com)

#### 2. Giant Supermarket

The last of our supermarket chains, Giant is an east coast favorite in grocery stores.

[www.giantfood.com](http://www.giantfood.com)

And the top place to inquire for summer employment WHEREVER you are in the country, is at your local shopping malls. Malls are filled with tons of stores that are seeking to hire people for a few weeks only. It's the perfect place for college students to begin their search!



With a month-long break ahead of us, students are searching left and right for jobs. One prime opportunity for employment is in shopping malls, in retail stores such as Foot Locker, Macy's and Bloomingdales, to name a few.

Photo Courtesy of Ryan Hampton





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## *Our International Students: Where do we go?*

*For the holidays, numerous international students are faced with the same question each year: do we stay around in D.C. or do we take the trip back home to be with family & friends?*

For college students, December packs stress and final exams, as well as fun and relaxation, into its 31 days.

After countless late night study sessions, excessive Red Bull intake, and worry over final grades, most students look forward to venturing home for the holidays. However, making plans for winter break does not come as easily to international students.

Although residence halls remain open for the short four-day Thanksgiving break, dorms close their doors to students for winter break. For some international students, if they are lucky, this means making plans to go back to their home countries. Others must opt out to spend the holidays here in the U.S.

"Freshman year, I stayed back and I didn't like it. I said I wasn't going to stay back anymore," said Lois Oviawe, a junior economics major from Nigeria. "Sophomore year I went back home and I'm going back home again this year."

Oviawe is physically and mentally feeling the effects of these last few days of classes and upcoming final exams. December 14 will be her second time going back home to Nigeria, where her immediate family lives.

She stayed with her aunt and cousin during her first year at Howard. Although she said that experience was not all bad, there was not much for her to do and she felt bored most of the time. If in the future Oviawe decides to spend the holiday season in the U.S., she will most likely reach out to her church family in Maryland. Another option is staying with her family members that live in Texas, California, Chicago, and Florida.

Oviawe feels that the greatest challenge

for international students during this time of year is securing a place to stay. This Christmas, her father incurred the expenses and bought airplane tickets for Oviawe to travel back home.

"You can't beat spending time with family. Since you don't get to see them all the time, international calls are expensive so you don't talk as often. It definitely is worth it," said Oviawe.

Traveling can be a hassle. Last year, it took Oviawe two days to reach her final destination of Nigeria. Despite the financial strain and stress of travel, she says the inconvenience does not outweigh the joy of reuniting with family.

Oviawe has a similar experience with her international friends, including her suitemate who is also a student from Nigeria. She said they share the hustle and bustle of booking airline tickets and preparing for home.

In a couple of weeks, junior interior design major Mikael Laroche will make the trek home to Trinidad and Tobago for the Christmas holiday, as he has done every year thus far. \$444 will reunite him with his native land, familiar faces, and favorite celebration.

"I'm going to be bumping around the sky like a pinball but it's taking me home," said Laroche, who opted for a more affordable route home rather than a direct flight. He said purchasing an airplane ticket is tricky because you have to work around a tentative final exam schedule.

Christmas is by far Laroche's most valued holiday. For him, it is not about gifts, Christmas trees, and what he calls the "TV lifestyle." Family and the comfort of familiarity is the most important aspect of this holiday to him.

"The expenses incurred during [a] such

short period is usually one of the greatest challenges because everyone wants to go home to see family," said Laroche. "They want to see the foundation that was set prior to them coming to Howard University or coming to America."

When he goes back to Trinidad and Tobago, paranging is his favorite Christmas activity. Paranging, a Spanish tradition, is similar to caroling in America, where family, friends, and neighbors go from house to house to enjoy each other's company and sing songs accompanied by a cuatro, a four string guitar.

"With the stresses of exams and change in economic climate that we have in America right now, I need a new environment, something that I'm accustomed to. Something to really refresh me to start the 2010 academic year," said Laroche.

Going home for international students, as well as domestic students, provides an escape from the everyday stresses of college life. Money, food, grades, friends are some of the factors that contribute to a stressful semester. After all that, Laroche laughingly says that it's a blessing to "take a 12 hour nap" and experience the nostalgic feeling of being at home.

Both Oviawe and Laroche agree that while leaving U.S. borders for Christmas is essential, traveling home for summer break is not. Staying either in D.C. or another state will allow them to be productive and make advancements toward their future goals.

*By Genet Lakew, Metro Editor*





## *Kwanzaa: What's the Real Meaning?*

The December holiday break is currently the most awaited thing for most students on campus. While most students go home to celebrate the more common Christmas holiday, others at this historically black university will be celebrating Kwanzaa.

David Glover, sophomore architecture major and member of Ubiquity Inc. said the holiday was "created for African-Americans in the Diaspora who lost their rituals with transatlantic slave trade. "It is intended to be a substitute for something substantial," he continued.

This holiday is now nationally recognized and celebrated by more than 20 million Americans. Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration honoring African heritage and culture. The holiday consists of seven days of celebration on Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. The holiday also consists of pouring libations and lighting a kinara that culminates in a feast and gift giving.

Ron Karenga created the holiday in 1966 as the first specifically African-American holiday. Karenga said his aim in starting the holiday was to "give Blacks an alternative to the existing holiday and give Blacks an opportunity to celebrate themselves and history." Rather than adopt the practice

of the dominant society, such as Christmas, Kwanzaa is a celebration that is specifically targeted the roots of African-Americans.

Kwanzaa celebrates the "Seven Principles of Kwanzaa" or Nguzo Saba. Some of the processes are derived from Kawaia, the Swahili term for tradition and reason and each of the seven days are dedicated to one of the principles.

The principles are Umoja (faith), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (co-operative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith). These principles encourage unity, self-empowerment and the development of the black community. Compared to the capitalist nature of the other American holiday Christmas, many African-Americans see this as more wise and beneficial way to celebrate the holiday break.

Families can celebrate Kwanzaa by decorating their households with colorful traditional African clothing and fresh fruit. Some families however, may decide to celebrate Kwanzaa along with New Years. In many homes, the kinara and the Christmas tree share equal space.

*By Ollie Montgomery, Staff Writer*



Brian Lipkins-Scott - Staff Photographer

Kwanzaa is celebrated nationally, by approximately 20 million Americans, each year.





## Social Networking Makes Mark on Holiday Season

*The social networking phenomenon, commonly known as Twitter, has been stirring up commotion this holiday season. Does it bring people together or is it a distraction?*

It's Thanksgiving Day. The entire family's gathered around the dining room table, enjoying the meal grandma spent twelve hours preparing-when she starts asking the about something she heard on the radio. "Sing that Young Jesus song, Put On," she requests to one of her bewildered grandchildren. The family bursts into laughter, and someone starts up a rendition of Young Jeezy's city pride anthem, as the rest of the younger family members join in.

Hilarious situation, right? But sharing that unexpected laughter with your family isn't enough-why not share it with everyone else you know? Cue in Twitter, an easy to use social networking site that's rapidly out-popularizing the past's Facebook phenomenon. A quick update via cell phone or computer is enough to share this unusually comical incident with friends (or associates) from anywhere in the world. The replies and retweets to grandma's blunder roll in just as quickly as her grandchild tweets it.

Howard students in particular seem to have taken a great liking to the world of Twitter, tweeting in classes about the girl with the outrageous haircut, or the crazy man on the metro dancing to imaginary music. Many students regularly average over fifty tweets a day, and it doesn't stop for the holidays. In fact, this holiday season has provided twitter fans with some of the most amusing tweets yet, as students share what's going on in their respective hometowns with

eager followers.

"Tweeting is a fun and informal way to stay in touch," said junior accounting major and self-professed Twitter addict Chanel Oldham.

"It's a way to keep people up-

to keep people

what's going on with you, while you get an inside of the funny things going on with them, no matter how far away you are from one another".

Although tweeting at the dinner table might seem a bit rude, and inappropriate for family time, the simple nature of the site allows users to tweet quickly and discreetly. Posting a tweet, or checking out a friend's timeline of updates is virtually as unnoticeable as sending a simple text message.

Twitter might not create a more family-like environment at the dinner table, but it definitely plays a role in forging relationships between tweeters and their followers. Having constant access to someone's thoughts, the things that make them laugh, or the things they think are unacceptable (the tweeting topic possibilities are endless), gives a significant amount of insight into that individual's personality.

"I had a ball with tweeting through Thanksgiving break, and it'll probably only get better at Christmas," laughed senior biology major, Joslynn Reece. "The things people tweet about their families and their experiences at home are extremely entertaining-it's like sending out a huge, personal, mass text and seeing what responses you get back."



dated

with

With Twitter, people can keep up with their friends as well as their favorite stars.

Faraday Okoro - Photo Editor

By Ryan Foster,  
Editorials & Perspectives Editor





## *What's Your Favorite Holiday Family Tradition?*



**Erinn Jenkins**

Junior, Political Science

Montclair, NJ

*"Decorating my grandparents tree... All of my family comes over and we have a dinner and trim the tree."*



**Grace Salvant**

Senior, Public Relations

Brooklyn, NY

*"Going to my aunt's house and all of the women of family cook a big dinner...a good time for the women in the family to bond."*



**Lanelle Hanton**

Junior, Physical Therapy

Queens, NY

*"My Grandmother loves for all of the family to open gifts together."*



**Miah Tyree**

Sophomore, Broadcast Journalism

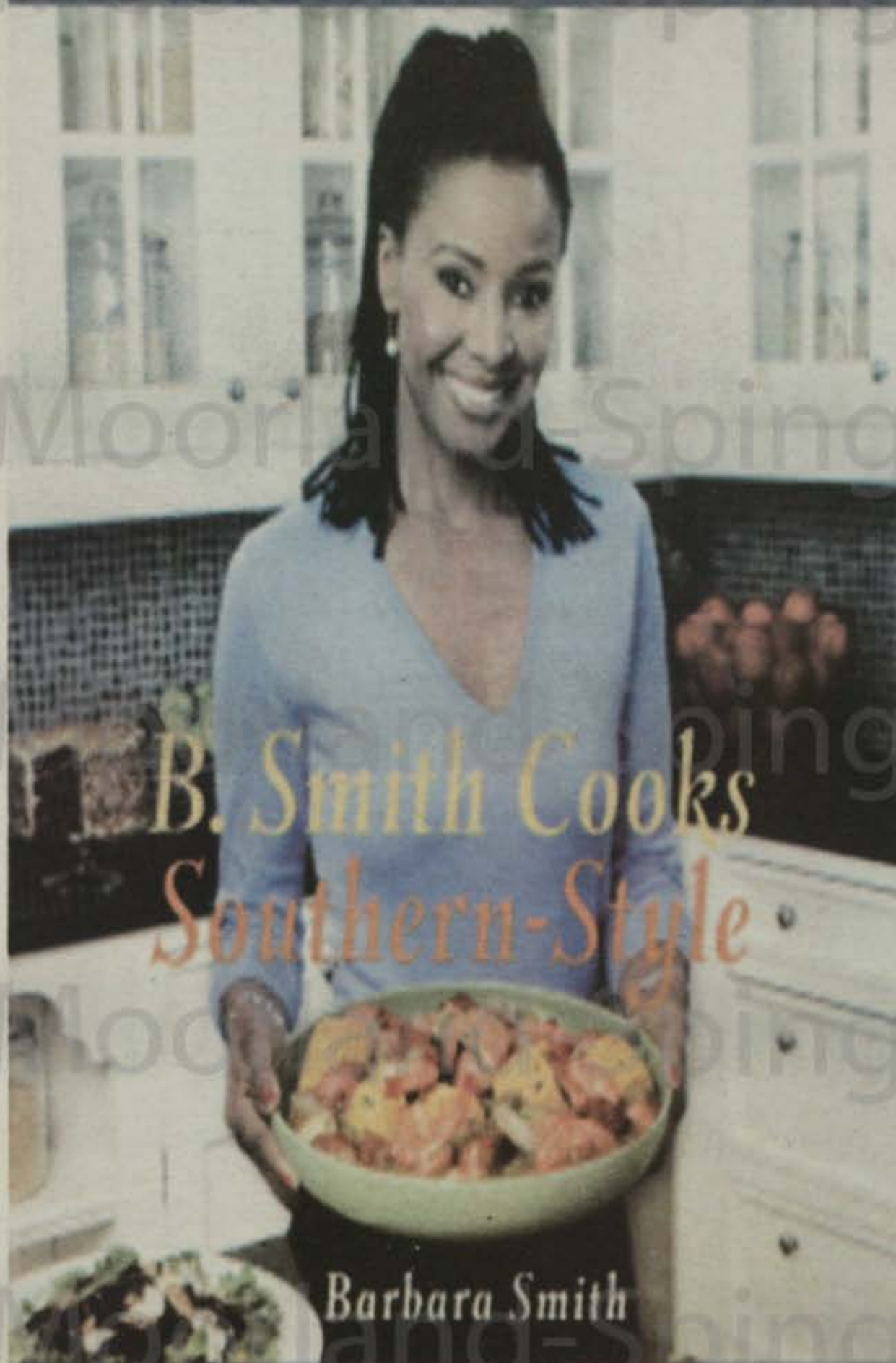
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*"Making Christmas Breakfast with my family while watching the Christmas Parade."*





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## *Jingle Bells, Deck the Halls & Everything in Between*

*Holiday tunes are universal. Here's some songs to add to your playlist for you and your's!*

### *25 Christmas Songs*

*Santa Claus is Coming to Town -*  
*Jackson 5*

*Someday at Christmas - Stevie Wonder*

*Silent Night - The Temptations*

*Let it Snow - Boys II Men The First*

*Noel - Whitney Houston*

*Jesus is The Reason for the season - Kirk*

*Franklin and the family*

*This Christmas - Chris Brown*

*Santa Baby - Lina*

*Sleigh Ride - TLC*

*Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas -*

*Luther Vandross*

*This Christmas Song - Toni Braxton*

*My Favorite Things - The Whispers*

*Give Love on Christmas Day -*

*The Temptations*

*White Christmas - The Supremes*

*All I Want for Christmas is You -*

*Mariah Carey*

*Blue Christmas - Elvis Presley*

*Feliz Navidad*

*I Saw Mommy Kissing Claus -*

*Jackson 5*

*Last Christmas - Wham*

*Baby It's Cold Outside -*

*Jingle Bell Rock*

*Rockin' Around Christmas Tree*

*Rudolph the Red Reindeer*

*Mr. Ginch*

*It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like*

*Christmas*

*It's the Most Wonderful Time of The Year*

*- Eddie Pola*





## *What to Buy, What Not to Buy...*

### **15 Things to Buy For Your Guy:**

1. Playstation 3 Slim: \$300
2. Personalized Polo Shirts: \$79.50
3. Beats by Dr. Dre headphones: \$150-\$300
4. Apple laptop: \$999-\$2,499
5. Grocery store gift cards
6. iPhone: \$199
7. Gucci Mane album: \$9.99
8. Blackberry: \$149-\$699
9. DJ Hero Renegade Edition: \$170
10. iPod speakers: \$39-95-\$600
11. Air Jordan Retro 11 "Space Jams": \$170
12. Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2: \$60
13. Gift card to Commonwealth: \$150
14. Ray-Ban Wayfarers: \$109
15. Xbox 360 Elite: \$300

*By Evan Hollis, Staff Writer*



### **15 Things to Buy For Your Lady:**

1. One-year subscription to Cosmopolitan: \$15.00
2. A snuggie (Animal Print): \$19.50
3. Secret Garden Collection Love Spell® Must-have Gift Bag: \$22
4. The Hills: The Complete Fourth Season: 23.86
5. Victoria's Secret underwear – \$25.00
6. Influence by Mary Kay and Ashley Olsen – \$25.50
7. Build-a-bear Holiday Elf – 32.00
8. Sephora Gift Card – \$50.00
9. Nordstrom Gift Card : \$100
10. Lola Marc Jacobs Eau de Parfum 3.4 oz. - \$85.00
11. DVD: Sex and the City: The Complete Series. \$120.00
12. Tiffany Notes heart pendant in sterling silver. \$150
13. Classic Uggs - \$180.00
14. iPod Touch – 199.99
15. 14k White Gold Diamond Bracelet. \$1,575

*By Milan Kunin, Editorial Assistant*



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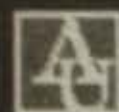
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# NEW YEAR'S EVE: 2010

*From what we've heard, here are some of the hottest places to go this year...*

## TOP 10 NYE DESTINATIONS:

1. Atlanta!
2. Miami!
3. Chicago!
4. Las Vegas!
5. Canada!
6. Church!
7. Philadelphia!
8. Houston!
9. New Orleans!
10. New York!



*So, each year, we always seem to have some sort of resolution. Here's some resolutions that you all said were important to you for 2010. Let's hope we all stick with them!*

## TOP 10 NYE RESOLUTIONS:

1. To bring more awareness and attention to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
2. To go to class and work on time.
3. To not have any holds on my Bisonweb account.
4. To have a successful monogamous relationship.
5. To avoid procrastination in order to stop putting stress upon myself and have a better spring semester.
6. To not sleep in anymore; it wastes valuable time we can't get back.
7. To spend more time giving back to the community and those who are less fortunate.
8. To hold student elected officials to the promises they make during election season.
9. To cut down on vices and extracurricular activities.
10. To make it to Graduation on May 8, 2010!



Photo Courtesy of Blair Matthews

For many Americans, another popular resolution is to exercise more.



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In light of the holiday season, which has come upon us ever so quickly, The Hilltop has decided to do something new - a holiday edition. Think of it as a takeaway after finals are complete, our gift to you all.

We hope you all have an awesome, blessed holiday season! Be safe and keep HU in your hearts until we reunite. For those graduating this month, congratulations! We hope to see you in the future.

Everything we do is for HU. Thanks for reading!

- The Hilltop Staff