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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 93, NO.67

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

WEATHER



46
33

Tomorrow:



54
28

Established
1924



Wednesday's Notebook

BREAKING NEWS

ACCORDING TO CNN.COM, VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS, INC. PLANS TO CUT 13,000 JOBS THIS YEAR.

CAMPUS

HOWARD STUDENT AUTHOR SEEKS TO DISPEL STEREOTYPES IN LITERATURE THROUGH HER NEWEST BOOK.

EDITORIAL

DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IGNORE AMERICAN ISSUES IN ORDER TO HELP COUNTRIES LIKE HAITI?

PAGE 2

PAGE 7

COAS Lessens Requirements for Graduation

CAMILLE AUGUSTIN
Staff Writer

The College of Arts and Sciences (COAS) is currently looking to lower the number of credits needed to graduate.

According to educational advisor in COAS Annette Davis, Ph.D., the faculty has voted to lower the credits from 127 to 120. This will only affect incoming students, but current students in COAS will still follow their respective schemes.

"With the exclusion of the four physical education credit courses and the third writing course worth three credit hours, the amount of credits for students in COAS to take will stand at 120," Davis said. "Nothing will happen or nothing is set in stone until the board votes on the decision to lower the credit hours."

Dorien Blythers, COAS president and junior political science major, said even though the decision is not final yet, it will allow students to be more flexible with their schedules as oppose to taking 18-19 credits each semester.

Howard University Student Association (HUSA) Executive President Bryan Smart, senior political science major, said it is stressful sometimes with students



Sean Robinson - Photo Editor

Students entering the university as of Fall 2010 will be required to complete less credit hours for graduation for majors within the College of Arts and Sciences.

in COAS taking 18-19 credits per semester. "I agree with the idea of lowering the credit hours in COAS, because it can be hard for students

to balance jobs while taking 18-20 credits a semester," Smart said. "Now students will be able to get into their educational experience

without worrying about if they will graduate on time."

On the topic of graduating on time, Davis said some students

are employed which can "account for graduating in four and a half or

> See **CREDITS**, page 3



Sean Robinson - Photo Editor

President Barack Obama celebrated the one-year anniversary of his inauguration on Wednesday. Tonight at 8 p.m. Obama will deliver the first State of the Union Address of his presidency to Congress at the Capitol Building.

Obama to Deliver First State of the Union Speech

OLLIE MONTGOMERY
Staff Writer

President Barack Obama aims to reconnect with independent, middle class voters concerned with growing deficits and the price tags of his ambitious agenda in his first State of the Union Address.

With aims to cap student loan payments, limit child care taxes and issue a spending freeze he plans to take less major risks and more manageable, but budget conscious, actions. The president also plans to decrease the amount of federal spending and highlight areas of possible savings in the speech. The speech that will air live on all the major networks, including the cable news channels, is scheduled for

8 p.m. tonight.

As he begins the second year of his presidency, he enters a decidedly different political climate than when he stood on the steps of the Capitol Building at last year's Inauguration. As he rode high along an approval rating in the high 60s percentile in February, he now hovers around the low 40s.

Most of the money from his partisan stimulus package, which passed early in 2009, still has yet to be spent, while his bailout plan has drawn some criticism from voters. He is credited with saving the financial sector from further ruin however, and many economists laud his swift, powerful action.

"I'd love for him to address whether the loss in

Massachusetts will be a very big deal to his health care reform bill," said Austin Edwards, sophomore political science major. Realizing that last week's Republican Senate bill now leaves Republicans in a position to jeopardize the massive care reform slate the Democratic Party has worked hard for, he's wondering, "if that will be a big deal." While initial plans were to sign the bill by fall 2009, before recent setbacks it was widely held that the bill would pass early this year.

In addition, one political setback may turn into an opportunity for the president. The Supreme Court has allowed corporations and

> See **OBAMA**, page 3

Mandatory Pow Wow Springs Intake

TAHIRAH HAIRSTON
Campus Editor

Spring semester has arrived. Some students are making plans for graduation, some are making plans for summer internships and some are making plans to become members of fraternal organizations, but not without the proper first step.

Today, Student Activities will hold the second annual mandatory spring membership intake meeting for prospective organization members at 7 p.m. in Cramton Auditorium.

The meeting is not just limited to students who plan on seeking membership into fraternal organizations, but also those wanting to become members of organizations that require any membership process with guidelines under a constitution.

In a previous 2009 Hilltop article, Student Activities Assistant Director Kevin Reed stated during the meeting, "It's not about hazing. The Office of Student Activities has a mission to make sure [students] understand the rules. That encompasses a whole lot of things. I don't want people to misunderstand that this was all about hazing, because we talked about the processes for requesting transcripts, getting grades, etc. You have to understand the full context. We just want people to understand."

He said it was a way for students to better grasp organizational rules.

Junior public relations major Noelle Vatina, who recently became a member of Phi Sigma Pi in the fall of 2009, said holding meetings pertaining to this situation shows that the administration is concerned about the well-being of the students who are interested.

"It's good, because it let's us know that the administration is watching when students are inducted into organizations. The rules have to be followed," she said. "They let people know what is and isn't hazing, it gives people an understanding of what they can and cannot do."

While organizational rules dealing with hazing are discussed, some students worry about keeping the discretion of students pursuing membership in fraternal organizations.

"In a since it hinders discretion, but you can't see what organization people are thinking of becoming members of because it's not just people wanting to join fraternal organizations that attend," said sophomore finance major Christopher Sledge.

Sledge became a member of Campus Pals in spring 2009. He said attending the meeting was informative, but it didn't change his mind on certain things, because they were things he already heard about.



Brian Gentl - Photo Editor

Those seeking spring membership into campus organizations with a selective admission process must attend a meeting in Cramton at 7 tonight.

A Closer Look: Was it an Innocent Jihad?

After Dental School student Ramy Zamzam was detained in Pakistan in November, the HU community and the press both wondered the same thing: Why? Was it for a traditional jihad?

BY AURORA ELLIS
Contributing Writer

On Dec. 9 of last semester, while most Howard students were finishing their classes and finals for the fall, it was revealed to the press that five young American men were arrested in Pakistan for suspicions of "links to terrorism." Among those five was Ramy Zamzam, a Howard University dental student.

The group of young men are described as being from the Washington-Virginia area and are of Egyptian, Pakistani and Ethiopian descent. Reports describe the individuals as being held for long hours for interrogation by the FBI and Pakistani authorities in a high-security prison in Sargodha, Pakistan.

In their defense, Zamzam told the Associated Press in court that, "We are not terrorists. We are jihadists, and jihad is not terrorism." This is an unusual statement to hear in the news, because the

American media often translates the Islamic concept of jihad as a "holy war" and closely associates it with terrorism. Zamzam's embrace of the term "jihadist" has been viewed by many in media and seemingly the law enforcement to be tantamount to a confession or at least grounds for an indictment. However, this common definition of jihad portrayed by the media may not convey its entire meaning.

Mervat Hatem, Ph.D., a political science professor and former president of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), said that, "The concept of jihad as it is used in the context of the war in terror is identified largely with the use of violence to change things, or to defend the community, or to change things that you do not like about our communities and our politics. Throughout Islamic history, this was not really the dominant concept; in fact this is seen as the minor jihad."

Hatem explained that in

the Arabic language, "Jihad simply means 'struggle,' it doesn't really mean the use of violence." She described that, "In Islam and Islamic history and tradition there are two types of struggle that one might be involved in. The big jihad is the one in which you struggle with yourself to become a better person, and this is seen to be the most difficult jihad."

Thus, jihad also has components of non-violent struggle, a factor which is often not emphasized in current discussions about jihad. Hatem also placed significance on the way each generation defines jihad. She notes that although the generation of Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri may have defined it as a "holy war" this may not be true for younger generations of Muslims. "The assumption is that they are some how following in the footsteps of the older generations, but why is that necessarily true?" she asked.

Some Howard students also remain skeptical about the

way mainstream American media sources portray jihad and Islam.

Abdul Deense, a senior political science major, is convinced that the American media presents the concept of jihad only in one light. For Deense, the American media often "think[s] that the word jihad mobilizes Muslims, especially young Muslim men. They think that if Muslims have that unified force it will be very counterproductive to their aims, so that is why they are very fearful of the word jihad."

Jason Scruggs, a senior political science major, stresses that although there are many misconceptions around the word, much of it is due to extremists and terrorists who misinterpret the Qur'an and use this to justify their actions.

"I find that many people are simply ignorant about Islam so the tendency is to incline toward what little information is available. There are radicals who claim to fight a 'holy war,' but in reality, they are transgressing the rights of

mankind. I think more Muslims need to speak out and clarify what is and is not Islam," he said.

Scruggs insists it is important that university students seek to go beyond what the American media puts forward on the subject and investigate for themselves. "We [as Americans] do have a narrow conception about jihad," he said. "But, in my humble opinion, we have an even narrower conception about what Islam is as a whole."

Zamzam's statement challenges the notion that jihad is merely equivalent to "holy war" or "terrorism." However, the definition of jihad to him and his other American companions is yet to be revealed.

The case against Zamzam and the four other Americans is pending in Pakistani courts until Feb. 2, when the courts will decide whether or not to pursue a trial based on the charges filed by the Pakistani police.

Behind The Classroom: Tony Medina

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON
Staff Writer

When students take their first footsteps into Tony Medina's classroom, they enter an alternate universe where they are encouraged to use their brains and pushed to be curious while sitting side-by-side in a circle with a teacher who sometimes plays the devil's advocate.

"Do you think Socrates and all those people sat around in circles?" Associate Professor of creative writing Tony Medina said. "The circle is a very important philosophical and spiritual notion. It's a wholeness, oneness and it equalizes the power of the whole classroom."

With the "African and indigenous centered" atmosphere, Medina said he is able to bring reality into the classroom through expressing his own ideas and challenging those of his pupils. "I want [the students] to leave my classroom having a certain experience," he said.

The intellectual clash of curiosity and agreeing to disagree fills the aura of the classroom as students express their views on religion, politics and anything else that pertains to the previous and current state of African Americans. "I believe in a more synchronic method of teaching, it's very effective when you start getting people to think critically," Medina said. "I don't find dictating or lecturing to be engaging [because] I need to be engaged as well."

Before the strong, opinionated and small-framed Medina with unravelling chaotic braids began to captivate the minds of Howard University students, he found a love for reading, writing and learning through his own experiences. He was born and raised in the Bronx by his grandmother, and the appearance of books was not frequent in Medina's household. "I wasn't raised with books except for the Bible and cheap paperback novels. I didn't really develop a patience to read; my

novel was television," he said.

It wasn't until ninth grade when Medina received an "F" on a book report when he began to look at reading books as more than a task to graduate. "I only hung out in the library because there was air conditioning in the summer and in the winter it was warm," he said. When the teacher allowed him to make-up the report and handed out a list of books for him to select from, Medina didn't want to let his grandmother down.

"Flowers For Algernon" by Daniel Keys was the first book Medina read that tapped into his connection with writing. "I had the power to create a world using words. That's what really made me want to be a writer. It allowed me to go places where I couldn't go or get to myself," he said.

After reading that book, he said his family began to support him and his interest in literature. My aunt bought me a typewriter, and I began buying my own books, Medina said. With his aspirations to become a writer, Medina sought a bachelor's in English literature from City University of New York - Baruch College, publishing his first book of poetry, "Emerge and See," in 1991. "I never saw myself as a teacher, just as a writer, but in order to pay my rent I had to get part-time jobs," he said. At one point Medina had three different part-time jobs until he got a job as a tutor at Long Island University (LIU). He later went on to become a part-time teacher at LIU for eight years. Ten years later during a fellowship program, he got invited to become a teacher by Chairman of the English department Eleanor Trailer, Ph.D., at Howard and has been a professor here ever since.

To date, Medina has published 14 books. The latest one, a children's book, entitled "I and I Bob Marley," sold in the book section of Busboys and Poets.

"I really love writing children books and young adult stuff, it's rewarding when kids love your work," he said.

Student Author Pursues Purpose Through Poetry

BY CAMILLE AUGUSTIN
Staff Writer

"The Poetics Noire: Volume I" is a poetry anthology book published by Howard student, Britany Rickett, junior film production major.

"The Poetics Noire: Volume I" is aimed at challenging stereotypes placed on current African-American literature by giving a glimpse into the intellectual minds and hearts of different minority groups across the nation," Rickett said. "We are more than what the media portrays us to be and it is time to reclaim our place in literary history as seen before in the Harlem Renaissance."

The book is divided into life stages and emotions so readers can find pieces "on love, pain, faith, culture [and] politics," Rickett said the book was created to give a voice to those who have been rejected and lost hope.

The idea for publishing a book came from the responses she received when she wrote a multicultural children's book her sophomore year in high school. "I am a reject," was the feeling that Rickett had after being told that there was no market for such a book. But Rickett pursued her aspiration, and to prove people wrong, she did years of researching, wrote a business plan, filed papers and started a company that would benefit African Americans titled Sparkle Bee Media.

"When someone tells me I can't do something, I like to prove them wrong," Rickett said. "It took a total of two years to finish [The Poetics Noire: Volume I]. I started my freshman year at Howard, Harriet Tubman Quadrangle was my dormitory, my lounge and my



Photo Courtesy of Britany Rickett

Pictured above, Rickett's poetry book was released Nov. 24, 2009.

business office."

Rickett said once she received the published book in her hands, there was a multitude of emotion running through each page. "When I was 12, I said I wanted to be a published writer before I turned 21," Rickett said. "The book was released Nov. 24, 2009, and I turned 21 on Dec. 27, 2009."

"I think the fact that she is publishing a book at a young age is very bold," said Natelege Whaley, junior print journalism major. "People like her are very motivational and make me want to continue to step my game up."

Whaley said Rickett displays entrepreneurship by taking her ideas and producing something that she thinks is great without waiting for someone to give her the opportunity. "Life is all about taking risks and that's the only way you stand out."

The proceeds from the book will go toward a scholarship for minority youth and programs for Rickett's non-profit organization, Sparkling Bechive. Rickett is in the process of compiling another book later on in the semester.

Either, Or

The Hilltop asked Medina to choose between two known differences - the ones he choose are in italics.

Common or *Mos Def*

DC or *New York*

Fiction or *Poetry*

MLK or *Malcolm X*

Washington Post or *New York Times*

Winter or *Summer*

Blackberry or *Phone*

"*I Don't Know What They Do*"

Typewriter or *Computer*



The Hilltop 24 List to Premiere in Tomorrow's Paper

Obama to Give 1st State of Union

Continued from FRONT, OBAMA

special interest organizations the right to spend unlimited funds in the congressional and presidential campaign season, providing opportunities for both sides of the aisle. While Republicans, who are traditional allies of big business, have a lot to gain, Mr. Obama can use the issue to tap into a growing populist discontent.

Many voters have derided mega corporations, especially those who were "too big to fail" and received bailout money. The moves

prompted massive "Tea Party" demonstrations amongst many voters and some in the media such as Fox News anchor Glenn Beck, fed the populist fire.

Now Mr. Obama can attack the power of such corporate titans who may have much more leverage to lobby Congress in their direction. In the speech, the President is also believed to touch on this, and use it as a possible tool to set the stage for Democrats to defend themselves against their optimistic Republican rivals this election year.

COAS May Alter Credits Required for Graduation

Continued from FRONT, CREDITS

five years."

According to graduating senior public relations major Ashley Stoney, by improving the lack of communication between the administration and comprehensive e-mail system, students who are confused about the classes they have to take would be able to speak with administration effectively as oppose to falling behind in their studies.

"I had to learn the hard

way from upperclassmen, my peers," said Stoney. "Freshman year I took 12 credits and had a job. No one told me I could not do that."

Stoney said it is imperative to follow your scheme. "Don't let outside activities keep you from doing your work," she said.

"I have been told by other students [that] administration hinders students because of the whole validation process," said Olyin Edwards, graduating senior accounting major. "And the fact that most times

a student is not validated because of the performance, or lack of performance, from administration."

The School of Business has a four-year graduation rate of 53 percent.

Davis said some students are allowed to double major in COAS. "This may lead to them graduating at a later date due to extra courses, but those students who choose to double major feel better about themselves in the end," Davis said.

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*Budget Meeting - Sunday - 6 p.m. - Hilltop Office -
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An Apple a Day



BY NAYA SCARBROUGH
Wellness Editor

Hey! I'm Naya. I'm 20 years old. I consider myself a healthy person, mentally and physically. When I do something healthy that works well for me, I tend to spread the word. I'm not a doctor and do not ever claim to be one. I dislike having to take modern medicine sometimes, but I prefer modern medicine to being unwell.

I think it's important to take care of our bodies, our minds and our spirits. If these are not in tact, what about us is intact?

Many of us have heard the saying "look good, feel good" and I believe looking good helps. Although, looking good isn't enough to bring down your high blood pressure that you've been blaming on stress when the real trigger is your poor eating habits. Nor is looking good enough to get you out of bed in the morning when you've hit your snooze button five times after a full night of rest, a telltale sign of anemia.

Sure, maybe you didn't pass out on 'The Yard' today, but why go the whole day feeling like you want to when there's something you can do about it?

That recurring headache might be more than just a sign that you're a little thirsty and those random bruises whose culprit you can't identify, may be more than just wild sleeping.

My point is, we get up in the morning, we go to class, show up for endless meetings, and maintain a social life, and by the grace of the forces that be, we wake up and do it all again. We're living.

Wellness is about more than living.

Wellness, as defined by the Oxford English Dictionary, is the quality or state of being in good health, especially as an actively sought goal.

We live everyday, but not all of us are living well. Some of us are doing well and could stand to do a little better. So, cool, you cut potato chips out of your diet, but why are you still taking the elevator to the second floor? Yes, it's nice that you're going to stop eating carbs after 9 p.m., but let's not replace that with a steak. You're off to a nice start, but let's follow through.

Now, for those of you who are still munching on those chips and beef at about 11 p.m., after catching the elevator to your first floor suite and curl up in your bed, only to ignore that throbbing pain in your back that hasn't been diagnosed, we still have work to do.

Now, don't worry if you don't have a buddy to keep you on track, or don't know where to start, I'm here. We'll be learning new ways to live well, together.

I consider myself healthy, but I am a student just like the rest of you and things get in the way sometimes; I understand. We just have to figure out ways to incorporate wellness in to the Howard lifestyle.

Nope, I don't have a treadmill in my room and I don't go to the gym very often, but there's a nice set of stairs in every dorm. And, yes, I know that Dining Dollars are the only way that some of us can eat, but that doesn't mean that we need to eat a cheesesteak and fries everyday. You know who you are.

We've all heard of great ways to improve our health, but let's face it, some of these things just don't cater to the life of a busy Howard student. So, together, let's work towards making wellness work for us.

Wellness is about more than just living; it's about being alive.

Tricky Weather May Cause a 'Sicky' You

Despite unpredictable weather in the District, there are some tips we can use to stay healthy

BY RYAN FOSTER
Editorials & Perspectives Editor

Wash your hands

Although this seems like the most elementary direction, many people tend to neglect the importance of washing their hands. Not only is washing your hands thoroughly (with hot water, antibacterial soap, and for a minimum of fifteen seconds) after using the restroom a must. Your hands should be washed (or at least sanitized) regularly throughout the day.

According to a survey done by CNN, 70 percent of adults surveyed admitted to not washing their hands after coughing or sneezing, 80 percent after handling money, and surprisingly 14 percent after using the restroom at home. Although we should avoid doing so, we can infect ourselves with germs that can cause colds (and more serious illnesses) by neglecting to wash our hands, and subsequently making contact with our eyes, noses and mouths.

It's slightly terrifying to consider how much you do with your hands, and how many germ-ridden surfaces you touch through the course of your day. Keeping them clean is a necessity!

Avoid germ surfaces

You pushed the button for the elevator. You grabbed the door handle to open the door. You sat at your desk and typed a six page paper on your computer keyboard. What else have you come in contact with lately? Have you leaned on the Chick-Fil-A counter in the Punch Out? Possibly shaken hands with a professor or new acquaintance? According to a study by the University of Arizona, the average student's computer keyboard has more germs on it than a toilet seat. Telephones can boast up to 25,127



When you're on the go, it is not always feasible to get to a sink and wash your hands, but hand sanitizer can be the next best alternative to use to keep from spreading and catching germs.

germs per square inch.

At home, use disinfectant. Anti-bacterial products, such as Lysol and Clorox, kill up to 99 percent of germs, and are specifically catered toward getting rid of the ones that make us sick, and are easily available on the average college student's budget. For surfaces in public places, just think smart! Use a paper towel to open the door in the restroom after washing your hands, use your elbow to push buttons and avoid making unnecessary contact with counters or other public surfaces.

Take care of yourself

Although washing your hands and staying away from germ-ridden surfaces are great ways to avoid getting sick, taking care of your body is also a necessary

component. The life of an average college student might involve pulling a few all-nighters (for either academic or entertainment purposes), and making it to at 9:40 class the next morning, but try to keep them as far and few between as possible.

The life of an average college student might also include a diet rich in McDonalds French fries, double cheeseburgers, vending machine drinks and ramen noodles, but it's also worth it to shy away from the fast food and junk and opt for healthier options. Not getting adequate sleep and overloading your body with caffeine and sodium might seem like a good idea at the time, but they definitely take toll on your immune system, and subsequently your ability to fight of

illnesses.

Stay back

Although this directive might seem as elementary as washing your hands, staying out of people's personal space is something else that people often ignore. It's cool to hug a friend when you see them on campus, or shake a buddy's hand in passing, but contact like this is the perfect opportunity for spreading nasty germs from person to person. How sure can you be that your friend is as health conscious as you are, and washed their hands after leaving the bathroom that morning? Even people who wash their hands regularly can be germ-passing culprits, especially during a season when runny noses and scratchy throats are running rampant around campus.

What You Don't Know Is...

The truth about your genitalia

The Penis

There is more than one type of penis.

One type, when flaccid, appears big and in becoming erect doesn't get much bigger. This type is colloquially known as a "shower." The other type of penis is a "grower." This penis lengthens when becoming erect. According to a study by Alfred Kinsey, shorter flaccid penises may gain about twice as much length as longer non-erect penises.

You can break a penis.

The penis is not a bone, but it is just as delicate as one. A wrong move or a hard thrust in the wrong direction could result in a penile fracture. A penile fracture occurs when the penis tissue ruptures usually due to blunt force. The injury can only happen while the penis is erect and is accompanied by a popping sound. It consists of immediate flaccidness, the penis turning a deep purple and intense pain. According to the editors of *Men's Health Germany*, masturbation is the most common cause, although the injury is rare.

When a male has sex with a virgin, it's not only the female that feels pain.

Some men complain of slight pain when breaking the hymen of a female who has never engaged in sexual activity.

Smoking can affect a man's penis.

Smoking can shorten a man's penis by up to one centimeter.

Circumcision may not necessarily be the way to go.

A study conducted at Michigan State found that circumcision removes some of the most sensitive areas on a penis.

The Vagina

The vagina is not a never-ending pit.

The average depth of a vagina is 3 to 6 inches but with pleasure, and a little pressure, it can extend slightly to accommodate larger lengths.

Women don't necessarily need to douche to ensure their vaginas are clean.

Douching is an unnecessary activity, for the vagina is a self-cleaning organ. If women do decide to douche, they should use unscented products. They should also clean with gentle soap and do it carefully as to not irritate the lining of the vagina.

Not all vaginal odors are bad.

Most women have normal smell to their vaginal which should not be foul. It varies based on the woman's monthly cycle. It can also vary based on personal hygiene, diets and other factors.

Women don't feel most pleasure through actual penetration.

This is not necessarily true, 90 percent of the vaginal nerve endings are outside of the actual vaginal. The first inch of the inside of the vagina is said to be the most pleasurable.

A woman can break her hymen before she has sex for the first time.

A female's hymen can break before even experiencing sexual intercourse. Things such as bike riding and strenuous physical activities can break a hymen. A woman's hymen also may not break after the first time of having intercourse. Some women may not even have a hymen at all.

- Compiled by Maquita Eaton,
Contributing Writer from various Internet sources including *Men's Health*, and *Science Daily*

Bison Split Decisions Against Rival, Bethune-Cookman

BY TERRICKA JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Coming into the game with an 8-10 record, the Lady Bison hoped to defeat their Bethune-Cookman University MEAC counterparts in their face-off on Monday.

By the end of the first half, the Lady Bison led the Lady Wildcats, 26-24, in what was looking to be another victory.

The Lady Bison held the lead well into the second half of the game with their last leading score at 47-46.

After a turnover by the Lady Bison, the Lady Wildcats recovered the ball for a lay up, ending the game with a score of 47-48, in favor of the Lady Wildcats.

Going into their match-up with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, the Lady Bison hold a record of 8-11.

Zykia Brown, scored a game-high of 20 points after missing a match-up against the Lady Rattlers of Florida A&M University on Jan. 23, due to an ankle injury.

Following the Lady Bison's

defeat, the Howard University men's basketball team faced off against the men of Bethune-Cookman, coming off of a 65-72 loss against the Rattlers of FAMU.

The Bison took their lead at an early start with an 18-point lead by the end of the first quarter of the game.

By the end of the first half, the Bison led the Wildcats with a score of 37-16 with 11 of those points scored by Howard freshman, Dadrian Collins.

Though the Wildcats made several attempts at a comeback that brought them closer to the Bison in points, their attempts proved to be unsuccessful with a final score of 67-64 in favor of the Bison.

The Bison will head into their match-up against the Hawks of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore with a record of 6-15.



The men's team was victorious Monday against Bethune-Cookman, while the Lady Bison fell to their women's team.

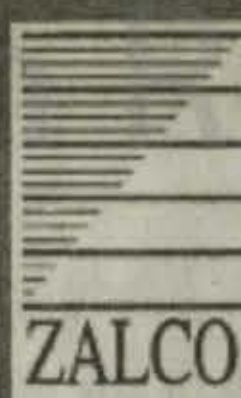
Men's Basketball	MEAC	Overall
Morgan St.	6-0	14-7
Bethune-Cookman	5-2	11-8
Howard	5-2	6-14
Delaware St.	4-2	9-8
South Carolina State	3-3	9-7
North Carolina A&T	3-3	7-12
Maryland-Eastern Shore	3-3	5-14
Norfolk State	2-4	3-15
Hampton	2-5	3-12
Florida A&M	1-3	4-15
Coppin State	0-6	6-12

Women's Basketball	MEAC	Overall
North Carolina A&T	6-0	12-7
Morgan State	5-1	9-9
Maryland-Eastern Shore	4-2	6-9
Bethune-Cookman	4-3	8-10
Hampton	4-3	8-10
Howard	4-3	8-10
Coppin State	3-3	7-10
Florida A&M	3-4	0-7
South Carolina State	2-4	7-11
Norfolk State	0-6	3-12
Deleware State	0-6	2-17

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Sports Trivia!

What year was the first college
basketball game played?

Search the Hilltop for the
answer!

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

January 27, 1989

Kevin Johnson (Phoenix Suns) begins
streak of making all free throws in 57
straight games.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

Dear Students:


As an ongoing part of our efforts to improve efficiency and streamline student enrollment processes, the University has implemented the following student service enhancements that are effective immediately:

- **The First Deferred Payment Deadline will be July 1**, beginning with the 2010 – 2011 academic year. All payments, installment plans, and third-party payment authorizations for the Fall 2010 semester must be received on or before this date.
- **The Priority Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Deadline is February 15.**
- **FAFSA and Scholarship Search workshops will be sponsored from January 20 through February 15, the FAFSA filing date.** Students may bring their tax documents to the workshop to receive assistance with completing the 2010-2011 FAFSA form.
- **Students who complete their FAFSA form by the February 15 deadline will also receive two (2) Room Selection and Verification Program (RSVP) points** for 2010 – 2011 on-campus housing (beginning this March).
- **FAFSAs must be filed by February 15** (and all required documents must be submitted) **to be eligible to complete the Donor Scholarship Application** (made available April 1 - April 8)
- **All filing and payment deadlines will be enforced.** Failure to meet these critical deadlines will result in the assessment of late registration fees, late payment fees and the purge of registration schedules prior to the start of class without notification. All students are encouraged to monitor their validation status online via BisonWeb.

Beginning with the 2010-1011 semester, these processing enhancements are being made to expedite the financial aid packaging and validation processes. The Office of Student Financial Services will announce additional student service improvements in the coming months.

We wish you a successful spring semester.

Sincerely,


Seyester Bell

Executive Director

2400 6th Street, NW, Suite 218
Washington, DC 20059



Telephone- (202) 806-2570
Facsimile- (202) 806-5279



When's the time for us to focus on our issues?

In the aftermath of such a tremendous natural disaster as the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that rocked Haiti over a week ago, it's not only moral, but necessary, for the United States and other nations to give as much financial assistance to the area as possible.

Howard even threw a benefit concert to profit the cause, filling Cramton Auditorium with students and celebrities. The benefit concert made over ten thousand dollars, which will surely be benefit victims of the disaster get back on their feet.

Of course we have an obligation to help Haiti, and prolonged assistance will also be necessary; there's no doubt about that. But this presents an interesting question. When will it be time for the United States to focus on its own issues?

George W. Bush left us with a considerable mess in the Middle East to deal with and despite Obama's efforts to get Americans out of Iraq, who really knows how long it's going to take for the nation to be self-sufficient and for America to successfully deal with the disaster

site the previous presidential administration left behind? President Obama has also pledged to provide Haiti with financial and other assistance until further notice.

In the direct aftermath of the disaster, Obama was quoted in an address to the nation acknowledging that we have our own problems on the home front, but it's

Our View:
It's always time to focus on lending a hand at home.

our duty as Americans to aid in the urgent humanitarian efforts in Haiti. Is it also our duty to be supportive of Iraq's problems (regardless of whether or not they were caused by the United States in the first place)?

At least Obama has openly recognized that the nation might be concerned about how putting so much financially into other nations could concern Americans, especially when our country is going through its own

problems. Part of America wasn't ripped apart by a tremendous earthquake, but we are suffering from an epidemic of HIV/AIDS in the black community.

A generation of children from lower class neighborhoods are being denied the necessary tools for adequate education and our economy has definitely crumbled and is in need of major attention.

HIV/AIDS is one of the only issues that receives the widespread attention it deserves. Where are the benefit concerts and fund-raisers to raise money for books for students in underprivileged neighborhoods?

We don't have to wait until there's an international catastrophe to give to charity, and to focus on the issues that plague the United States. We can, and more importantly, should be focused on issues on the home front. We need to help Haiti. But we also need remember to help ourselves. We're just as important.

Perspective *No Need for a Title*

I can honestly say that it is disappointing to see so few student leaders stepping up to run for office.

In the three years I've been at Howard and involved in student government, I have never seen so little participation in this process of electing our new student leaders.

I do not, however, believe that it is student apathy, nor is it possibly the end of student government at Howard. I believe that student leaders are simply coming to realize that you don't need a title or a big office in "Power Hall" to make a difference.

I see students everyday on that hallway who have been delegated positions and jobs, who never can seem to get their jobs done efficiently. What we as a student body have to understand is that we are ALL student leaders. Why? Because

the Howard University student body is one of the most influential and promising groups of college students in the world.

We are all capable of changing this university for the better, and we all possess the skills and tools needed to make this school what we want it to be.

You don't need a government position to do that; all you need is your voice, your vision and your solution to a problem.

Am I saying that we don't need student government? By no means. Our student government serves as a leadership body that steps forward to be a representation of students, the same way that elected government officials do in the U.S. government.

There are, however, groups and unions that stand apart from our nation's

representatives, who take steps towards making a difference in this nation based on the skills and knowledge they possess.

That is the most prominent relationship between the governing body and the constituent, more-so than a mind-set of "let's step back and see what they can do for me."

So instead of searching for competition this election season, let's hear from this HUSA President and Vice-President candidacy slate to see what they have in store for us.

A leader is not just a competitor, but an ambassador to your needs.

Charles Canady Jr.
junior
audio production
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	

Want to write for The Hilltop?

Come grab a story at our next budget meeting.

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

THE HILLTOP

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The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to the editor or perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on to hilltopedit@gmail.com.

Any inquiries for advertisements should be sent directly to The Hilltop Business Office at campusadvertising@thehilltoponline.com

THE HILLTOP

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

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

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

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

Sports Trivia Answer: 1894

Hilltopics are printed everyday. The first 20 words are \$10 and .25 for each additional word. There is a 25% additional charge for small images. All classifieds must be submitted and paid for 3 business days in advance.

We accept payment in the form of cashier's checks, money orders, business checks, and major credit cards. **NO CASH** Any questions? Contact The Hilltop Business Office at 202 806 4749. Email your reservations and artwork material to classifieds@thehilltoponline.com; be sure to specify your run date, background and text colors.

Join Howard's oldest Afrocentric organization, Ubiquity Incorporated during our annual "Nguzo Saba" Week.

January 27th 12-6pm-UCAN Drive, Lower Level Blackburn

January 28th at 6pm-"L'union fait la force" Haiti Benefit Concert, Blackburn West Ballroom

January 29th at 6p.m.- Freestyle Battle in Blackburn Digital Auditorium.

January 30th at 10am-UCAN Community Service, 1525 Newton Street NW, Washington, D 20010

February 1st 6pm- OPEN HOUSE, Blackburn148/150

Arts and Sciences Student Council is now accepting staff applications. For a list of openings and an application, visit our office in Blackburn 106 or e-mail chiefstaff@gmail.com. The applications are available at www.greenlight09.wordpress.com. Hurry they are due Wednesday, January 27, 2010 by 5pm.

Xi Chapter, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Presents:

2010 Informational Meeting Tuesday, February 2, 2010 College of Medicine Auditorium 7:11p.m. Business Attire

"It is easy to be ordinary, it takes courage to excel, and excel we must!"

HOWARD UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING TREASURER APPLICATION: DUE FEBRUARY 1ST AT 10AM PLEASE PICK UP APPLICATIONS IN THE OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES, SUITE 117 IN BLACKBURN.

Alternative Spring Break 2010 Applications due Friday, January 29th by 6pm

in the lower level of the Carnegie building.

email questions to huasb2010@gmail.com

Follow us: twitter.com/huasb2010

Personal aide needed for former professor. 1day a week from 2-7pm. Salary is \$13/hr and you MUST have a car. This is not a sedentary position. Females only. Please send your resume to lisae417@hotmail.com

Ms. Abney's 2010 specials, Monday: Blow-out day: \$ 20.00. Tuesday: Chemical Day: \$30.00. Thursday: Full Sewn Weaves: \$90.00.

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Receptionist needed for animal hospital in NE DC 2 blocks from brookland metro. Salary is \$11/hr. Hours are Monday-Friday 2-7pm. Please send your resume to eisles@hotmail.com.

Have that inner salesperson in you? The Hilltop Business Office is now accepting applications for LOCAL ADVERTISING SALES REPS! Send an email to: ccola@thehilltoponline.com for more info

DSP Presents: We Are Young Money

Wednesday - Iota Rho History (Forever)

Thursday - Meet the Brotherhood (I Gets Crazy)

Friday - Date Auction (A Night Off)

Saturday - Community Service (The Dedication)

** Bonus Track (BEDROCK)

All events begin promptly at 7:07pm in the School of Business

Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, Inc, Alpha Tau Chapter and Howard University Campus Pals Present: Haitian Relief Drive

Please donate clothing, toiletries, & canned food to the lower lever of Blackburn to support Haitian relief. 1/21-1/29 12-2pm

SPRING MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT/INTAKE ORIENTATION MEETING

CRAMTON AUDITORIUM JANUARY 27, 2010 7:00 PM MANDATORY

FOR ALL STUDENTS SEEKING MEMBERSHIP IN ANY ORGANIZATION WITH A SELECTIVE /COMPETITIVE MEMBERSHIP PROCESS THAT ARE REGISTERED AND RECOGNIZED BY THE OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

NO EXCEPTIONS