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WEATHER**44****39****Tomorrow:****44****36**

Established

1924**THE HILLTOP**

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 93, NO.80

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Monday, February 22, 2010

Monday's Notebook**BREAKING NEWS**

ACCORDING TO UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS, STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT VALIDATED WILL BE PURGED THIS AFTERNOON.

CAMPUS

READ HOW SOME STUDENTS FELT ABOUT STUDYING ABROAD AND WHY MORE HU STUDENTS SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PROGRAM.

NATION & WORLD

PRESIDENT OBAMA IS SPENDING MORE MONEY TO CREATE NUCLEAR ENERGY. READ N&W TO FIND OUT WHY.

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PAGE 4

Step Off Leaves Some in Dismay*Step competition results cause some students to bring about a question of race*

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Xi Chapter, was one of two of Howard's Divine Nine organizations to participate in the Sprite Step Off over the weekend. Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. participated also.

BY AARON RANDLE

Staff Writer

After eight long hours of intense competition, the tension in the Boisfeuillet Atlantic Civic Center was so thick that Shontea Browne, an alumna of Clark Atlanta University was having trouble keeping her heart calm.

"I just know how bad these girls want this," Browne said, referring to the Clark Atlanta University chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, one of 14 National Pan-Hellenic sororities and fraternities competing in the National Final of the \$1.5 million Sprite Step Off. "They've worked so hard."

It was nearly 12:30 a.m., and the crowd of more than 4,500 had since dwindled to

half that number. People were restless, anxious, and eager for results.

Third place went to University of Rutgers Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Second: Clark Atlanta University Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the first place winners of \$100,000 in scholarship money was the Central State University Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

The Howard University Xi Chapter members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. said they executed their high intensity and extremely difficult show better than ever before; yet, unfortunately, it was not enough.

"I feel like we should

have placed," said Jeremy Williams, junior biology major



Students volunteered to do community service on Saturday morning, which included picking up trash from the Atlanta streets.

and member of the Xi Chapter step team.

Along with Howard's own Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., there were several electrifying acts, including the Tau chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) sorority from the University of Indiana and the only team in the competition not part of the Divine Nine group of predominantly African-American sororities and fraternities, Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority, Inc.

The Zeta Tau Alpha team, comprised of Caucasian females, clad in black trench coats, shades and boots came out and stunned the capacity crowd with awe-inspiring stepping, rhythm, precision, and intensity.

> See **STEP OFF**, page 3

Compassion, Giving Still Stands After 100 Years

BY ANGELA MASON

HU News Service

It was one hundred years ago this year that Chicago physician Dr. James B. Herrick first described the strangely shaped red blood cells on the blood film of a medical student from Grenada. He gave a name to a condition that today still haunts tens of thousands of patients across the nation – sickle cell disease.

Unlike many historic milestones, however, that day is hardly one of celebration or excitement for people like Daniel Wallace, 2, Jasmen Hill, 13, Octavia Holt, 18, or Elisa Hogate, 24, all Washington-area sickle cell disease sufferers who depend on frequent blood transfusions to stay alive.

For them and the more than 80,000 Americans with the disease, Herrick's discovery just gave a name to their pain – the unceasing need for blood transfusions, the agonizing crisis, organs that fail and early death. But they are hoping for a gift on this 100th anniversary – the gift of blood. They are hoping that hundreds will continuously donate blood and register as a bone marrow donor on Tuesday, Feb. 23, in front of Howard University Hospital. Bone marrow transplant is the only procedure that can potentially cure this disease.

"There are thousands of Washington-area residents who suffer from this disease and they need our help," said Cynthia Gipson, family advocate, of Howard University DC Greater Access to Pediatric Sickle Cell Disease Services (DC GAPS) and Center for Sickle Cell Disease. "This is a chance for all of us to give to our neighbors and loved ones the gift of life."

Gipson should know. Her son, Christopher, suffered from the disease. In just 13 years, he received over 525 units of blood. He died of complications from sickle cell disease last year.

HU DC GAPS and CSCD is partnering with the American Red Cross, Be A Match Registry Bone Marrow Program, the National Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP) and the Howard University College of Pharmacy to collect blood and to register bone marrow donors from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at Howard hospital at 2041 Georgia Ave. NW. The Red Cross will collect blood, and the Marrow Program will register people who want to be placed on the list of potential donors. It takes only a swab of the cheek to be added to the marrow registry.

"At some point in our lives, almost all of us will need a blood transfusion," said Barbara Harrison, genetic counselor with HU DC GAPS and the Sickle Cell Center. "But it has also been proven that each blood donation saves at least three lives, which places our giving into a higher calling."

MOTTEP will provide health-related material and donor cards to those who want to sign up to become an organ or tissue donor.

"There are over 113,000 patients in the U.S. who are waiting for life saving transplants," said Norman Brooks, project director of MOTTEP. "Each day, 18 of those people die because of lack of a donor. That is a statistic that we can change."

But no one can speak to the importance of blood transfusion like those who so desperately need them.

"I get one unit of blood regularly," Jasmen said. "Sometimes after the transfusion, I feel good. Sometimes I don't because I get sick. Even though I get sick, it is so important to get the transfusions so I can get well and it prevents more serious complications."

Octavia said unfortunately so many people just don't understand the importance of giving blood.

"Without blood transfusions, I wouldn't be here today," she said.

Surgeon General Promotes Mental Health Campaign On HU's Campus

BY RON HARRIS

HU News Service

It was a crime so heinous, so hideous, that it defied many, if not most people's imagination.

A disturbed Washington, D.C., mother had apparently killed her four African-American daughters, ages 5 to 17, and left their bodies rotting in their home for seven months while she went about her daily routine. The bodies were discovered during an eviction in January 2009.

Later, the mother, Banita Jacks, 35, told homicide detectives that she believed demons possessed her daughters, and she was confident that they would return from the dead when the demons died.

Prior to the murders, Jacks had never been recognized with or treated for mental illness.

It is such cases and every day issues related to mental illness that bring U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin to Howard University Tuesday to kick off a national campaign to tackle mental health in the African-American community.

The Howard University community, particularly students, are invited to join Benjamin and the Substance Abuse

and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as they bring the subject into focus at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, in the second floor conference room of the Howard University Cancer Center and the Towers Auditorium at Howard University Hospital during a nationally broadcast telecast.

Benjamin and SAMHSA, working with the Ad Council and the Stay Strong Foundation, will unveil three new television public service announcements to coincide with the first HBCU National Mental Health Awareness Day and discuss the issue plaguing African Americans.

The launch will be telecast simultaneously to colleges and universities nationwide and will include an hour-long panel presentation by the Howard University Department of Psychiatry.

Participants will be able to ask questions in person, via television from their universities and through the Internet.

The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of mental health problems among young adults in the African-American community, said sociologist Donna Holland Barnes, an

instructor in the Department of Psychiatry at Howard University director of the University's Suicide Prevention Program.

"Unfortunately, many African Americans do not recognize this is a significant problem within our community," Barnes said. "We are less likely to seek help. If we do seek help, we're less likely to comply with treatment."

"The result can be fatal, and can lead to either suicide or homicide."

Mental illnesses, including depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, are widespread in the U.S. and often misunderstood. According to SAMHSA, in 2005 there were an estimated 25 million adults aged 18 or older living with serious psychological distress, an indicator highly correlated with serious mental illness.

Mental health problems are particularly widespread in the African-American community. In 2004, nearly 12 percent of African Americans ages 18-25 reported serious psychological distress in the past year. Overall, only one-third of Americans with a mental illness or a mental health problem

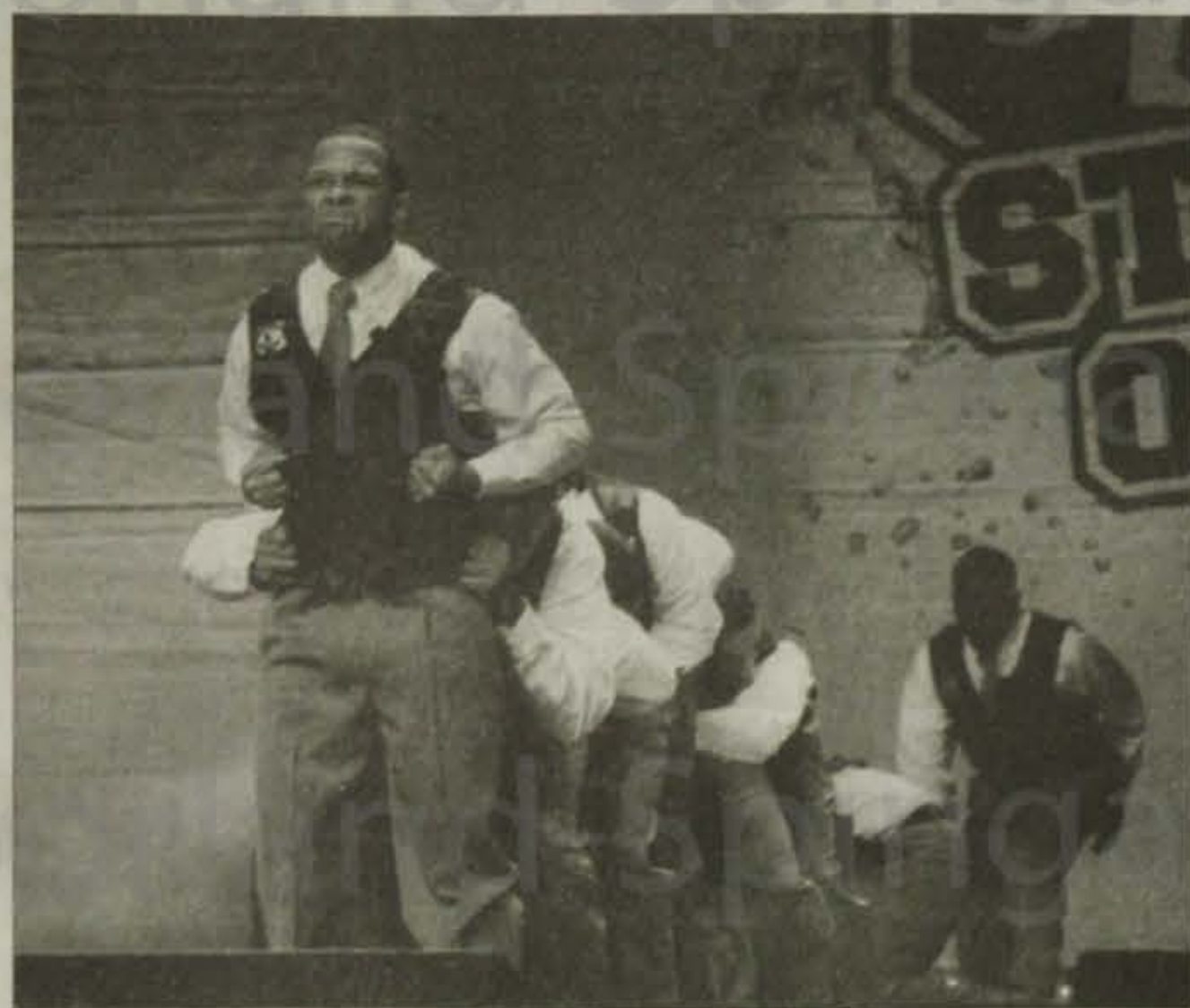
receive care and the percentage of African Americans receiving services (nearly 7 percent) is half that of non-Hispanic whites.

The prevalence of serious psychological distress is the highest in the adult population among 18-25-year-olds, yet this age group is also the least likely to receive services or counseling.

SAMHSA's Campaign for Mental Health Recovery partners include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institute of Mental Health, state mental health agencies, leading researchers on stigma and a broad coalition of stakeholders, including organizations that represent provider organizations and consumer and family member groups.

A resource guide, entitled "Developing a Stigma Reduction Initiative," is also a part of the campaign and is based on the evaluation and lessons learned from the Elimination of Barriers Initiative. Copies of the guide can be obtained by calling SAMHSA's National Mental Health Information Clearinghouse at 1-800-789-2647.

HU Greeks Represent in ATL Competition



Howard University Xi Chapter Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and Alpha Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. competed last weekend in Atlanta at the Sprite Step Off against other fraternities and sororities. Although they did not place in the competition, *The Hilltop* congratulates both organizations for making it to the final challenge.

Lack of Support for Study Abroad Program

Compared to other universities, few Howard students take the opportunity to go abroad during their college tenure

BY RODNEY HAWKINS
Contributing Writer

Adrenaline pumping. Her hair blew in her face from 100 mile winds, and her voice was caught in her throat to the point she couldn't even scream. That's all Bianca Williams could remember as she jumped out of a plane thousands of feet in the sky before landing on the scenic lands of New Zealand.

Williams, a junior biology major from Chicago, spent her fall semester in Australia studying Genetics at Melbourne University for six months.

Although Williams had "an experience of a lifetime," as she calls it, studying abroad, many students at Howard University do not take opportunities to study abroad in the fall and spring semesters.

According to the Howard University's Ralph Bunche Center,

about 40 students of the yearly average 7,000 undergraduates actually study abroad.

"I'm not upset that Howard sends 40 students," Bianca said with disappointment. "I feel like point two percent of Africans Americans in general travel abroad."

Williams said the experience was amazing but would have been better if the Australians had more understanding of what it means to be black in America.

"All they knew was Beyonce and Jay-Z," Williams said. "No one even knew what greens are."

Betty Aikens has been the director of the Study Abroad Program for 13 years. She felt the same way but said it needs to start here first.

"We talk a good game, but we have to get out of the four walls of Howard," Aikens said.

The Ralph Bunche Center

holds the offices of several different international departments for the university. However, in the entire center, the Study Abroad program for the fall and spring semesters has one person working all the logistics, mentoring and facilitating, Director Aikens.

"Three additional people would be great and would be to the betterment of the university," Aikens explained. "I have to beg to go on [international] conferences, and I need to go to them but they tell me they don't have any money."

The university compared to many other institutions in the area has fewer staff members. According to Aikens, Georgetown University has 11 staff members and Catholic University, who just got a Study Abroad program within the last five years, has two staff members.

Comparably, many schools

of Howard University's size in the nation sends hundreds, and sometimes in the thousands more students abroad than Howard does.

Williams said it was hard seeing students from other schools have several friends and fellow students from the same university together in Australia.

There were six other students from George Washington University that were in the same program as Williams.

"Personally, I think it was really helpful at the beginning of the trip to have my close friends [in Australia]," Amir Noor, a junior psychology major from George Washington University said. "There was no awkwardness socially. It was a lot easier because I had good friends that I went out with at first and then I branched out."

Noor described his experi-

ence with his university as very organized and welcoming.

Although Williams felt isolated at first, junior journalism major Aleesa Mann felt the isolation she experienced in Spain studying abroad was rewarding.

"It makes the whole trip more personal," Mann said. "I learned so much more about myself because I was alone."

According to the University's Web site, the study abroad program is not for every student.

"[Studying abroad] is for those students who seek to experience a different way of living and to find goodness, beauty, and power in the cultures of other people."

The program is actively accepting applications, and they are due by March 17. Ms. Aikens, however, says she is not accepting appointments from students, only walk-ins.

The Origins of Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday Night Live was established to create a place of worship for all Howard University religious life

BY ALEXANDRIA HOLT
Contributing Writer

Prayer, preaching and songs of praise and worship can be heard walking past Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel on a Wednesday night.

Wednesday Night Live, originally named Gospel Extravaganza, was started by current Dean Bernard Richardson to give young students a chance to preach and learn how to hold a worship service that features all the ministries of religious life. Wednesday Night Live is what students call a contemporary worship experience, with the purpose of allowing students to express their spiritual self.

"Wednesday Night Live allow students to be able to grow within their spiritual journey," said senior communication and culture major Melech Thomas, who is the featured student preacher for the next Wednesday Night Live taking place Friday, Feb. 26, in the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel. "Students are open to be themselves, and do not have to feel that they are being judged."

Wednesday Night Live used to be service with a more "tradi-

tional style" with preaching and more traditional spirituals. In 2004, former graduate assistant to the chapel, Reverend Bill Lee, revamped the style of chapel to make it more contemporary for a younger audience.

Today, Wednesday Night Live is compromised of songs, dance, spoken word, skits and other ways students come together for a night of praise and worship.

Whatever realm of worship one may enjoy, and regardless of religious backgrounds Thomas is sure that visitors will gain something from the night.

"I personally have gained a greater appreciation for people growing in their spiritual relationship on their own terms and not what my pre-conceived notions on what I think they should be."

Caroline Snowden, sophomore broadcast journalism major, calls Wednesday Night Live a "non-threatening" atmosphere.

"One of the main goals of Wednesday Night Live, is to gear toward our age group, where we can release all our problems and de-stress in a comfortable place of worship amongst our peers," she said.

Snowden said ever since the first Wednesday Night Live she attended her freshman week at Howard, she has felt at home. That service made her feel the most welcome and drew her into her spiritual life at Howard as a chapel assistant and active participant in the Wednesday Night Live services herself.

"Worshiping amongst my peers here at Howard made me realize that I didn't have to put my religious life behind, when I came to college," she said.

Marjorie King, a junior marketing major, said Wednesday Night Live brings a unique opportunity for students to come together to party and praise the Lord. "I enjoy Wednesday Night Live, because it brings students of different spiritual backgrounds together for a night of praise and worship," King said.

King said it is never a dull moment with the Wednesday Night Live and she encourages students that have a spiritual relationship with God to experience the worship service. With the motive of bringing a contemporary style of worship for students, Wednesday Night Live is full of



Zelena Williams - Contributing Photographer

Wednesday Night Live, originally named Gospel Extravaganza, is held in Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel every Wednesday.

songs, dance, and of course the motto, "Aint no party like a Holy Ghost party, because the Holy Ghost party don't stop."

"There is no better than adversity. Every defeat, every heartbreak, every loss, contains its own seed, its own lesson on how to improve your performance the next time."

~ Malcolm X

Happy Black History Month :)

Step Off Disappoints Some

Step competition results cause some students to bring up race issue

continued from FRONT, STEP OFF

Shaunte Russel, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. from Xenia, Ohio who came to support the eventually winning male step team from Central State University, was thoroughly impressed by the Zetas.

"I thought it was pretty amazing that [the Sprite Step Off] had a white step team, and that they performed so well," Russel said.

Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) was first introduced to the art of stepping 15 years ago by a local AKA chapter at the University of Arkansas.

"It started out as pure philanthropy," said Kristin King, member of the ZTA step team.

Fellow ZTA team member Alexandra Kosmitis said, "We used to have local competitions every year and decided to venture out into more rigorous competition this year. We're just amazed to be here. We were told we wouldn't make it out the first round, and now we're here getting a standing ovation."

That wasn't all they got.

Zeta Tau Alpha defeated all opposition to claim first prize.

The announcement sent shock waves through the crowd creating an uneasy combination of cautious celebration and chagrin.

Tension was high. A white sorority had just won one of the largest step shows in history and, though some were impressed, many more were upset and confused.

"Sprite didn't do a good job explaining the show; they manipulated the crowd," said Oyetewa Oyerinde,

a sophomore sports medicine major. "I thought the Zetas were more of a showcase. I thought this was a Divine Nine event."

Crowd participation was a major determinant in the judging, and though the crowd clearly appreciated the Indiana University AKAs, who went on to place second in the competition, they were outright boisterous after the Zeta performance.

"The ballots were extremely close, but in the end I think the crowd actually won the show for the Zetas" said an MTV representative who was working backstage.

He believed the decision was a last minute one, but there are some who believe the show's outcome was a predetermined one.

Various participants backstage asserted that MTV and Sprite took the Cinderella story of the anomalous Zeta's and ran with it.

Mentioning how the Zetas received a biased amount of television coverage and were treated more favorably than the other participating sororities, many felt after the Zeta's made it to the National Final, MTV and Sprite became less concerned with treating all their participants fairly and more concerned with promoting the Zeta's unlikely story.

"I'm upset MTV followed the Zeta's around and capitalized on us," said Francesca Hindmon, a senior economics major. "It seems to have been a setup from jump."

Senior political science major Brittany Reeves was visibly upset at the results.

"Sprite used the step off to

exploit black culture," Reeves said.

"How are you going to take something that's ours, and give it away?" Williams added.

Williams, Reeves and many others were upset, but this was not the case with everyone.

"Everyone [is] stuck in the old way of stepping - including only the Divine 9," said Joshua Taborn, a senior political science and philosophy double major. "And because 'the white people' won, we're mad at ourselves."

Taborn said, "We gave them a standing ovation when they stepped, and booed when they won. We're hypocrites."

One of the organizers of the trip, former HUSA president and current Howard law student Marcus Ware, also took a more objective approach in his assessment of the situation.

"I think Zeta Tau Alpha and the Tau chapter AKAs were evenly matched, but the crowd went more so with the Zetas and crowd participation matters. So the results make sense," Ware said.

Regardless of the controversy, there were still a lot of participants who were satisfied with the step off overall. The Central State University chapter Alphas, the fraternity winners, said they really appreciated the "bonds that were made with other orgs and within our organization."

"It's been a wonderful event," said Augusto Elias, the National Marketing Director for Coca-Cola. "We have to evaluate the event as a whole, but I'm sure [the step off] will be back."



Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority, Inc., a predominantly Caucasian sorority, took the grand prize at the Sprite Step Off in Atlanta last weekend. The Step Off included several other Greek organizations, including the Divine Nine.

Sports Trivia Answer:
Vonetta Flowers

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Obama to Push More Money into Nuclear Energy Production

BY OLLIE MONTGOMERY
Staff Writer

Moving into the next decade of the 21st Century, the fight to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels is growing stronger. And while the Department of Energy is pushing millions of funds into alternative energy, such as wind farms, hydroelectric plants, and hydrogen fuel cells, the president is pushing a return to a classic, but domestic form of power.

Nuclear energy is one of the areas President Obama aims to develop, and has allotted \$8.3 billion in loan guarantees to construct two new power plants in Georgia. The reactors will be part of the first new nuclear construction in 31 years.

According to the Department of Energy, in 2008, nuclear power was the third-largest generator of American electricity, behind gas and coal, producing 806 billion kilowatt-hours or one-fifth of our electricity. In this country, nuclear power is utilized in 31 states. With 104 reactors, the United States operates more nuclear reactors than any other country in the world.

However, in recent decades, the U.S. government and the American people have been adverse to nuclear power after a partial melt-

down at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island in 1979. The meltdown did not cause any deaths or lead to any detectable health issues, but it caused an immediate cessation of new nuclear plant construction in the United States.

"On an issue that affects our economy, our security, and the future of our planet, we can't continue to be mired in the same old stale debates between left and right, between environmentalists and entrepreneurs," said President Obama about nuclear power.

Obama's \$3.8 trillion 2011 budget proposal to Congress will contain \$36 billion in new federal loan guarantees for new nuclear facilities. These new guarantees will join \$18.5 billion already allocated for such tasks that have yet to be spent. The move has the support of moderate Democrats and Republicans, including former Republican presidential rival Senator John McCain of Arizona.

Obama acknowledged that nuclear energy does have some "serious drawbacks," notably concerns over the security of nuclear fuel and waste, waste storage, and proliferation. These are concerns that he also stated needed to be addressed as a candidate during the 2008 presidential campaign.

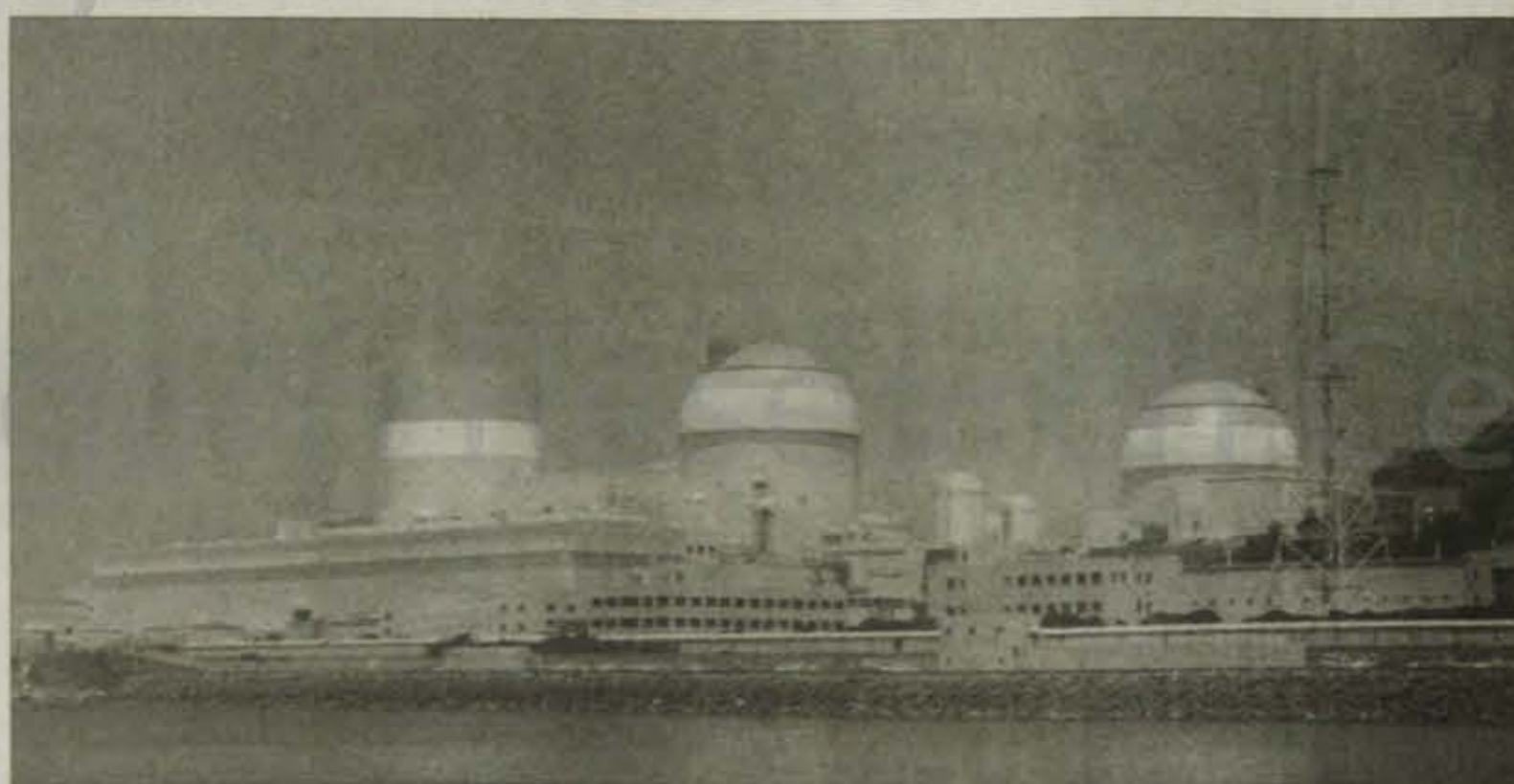


Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia

The Ikata Nuclear Power Plant is a pressurized water reactor plant in Japan. President Obama's 2011 budget proposal to Congress will add \$36 billion in loan guarantees for new nuclear facilities in America.

Some critics suggest President Obama is making the wrong move. Erich Pica of *The Huffington Post* calls the president's plan a "raw deal" saying, "if anything, the challenges facing the nuclear industry have grown worse."

Pica mentions a potential lack of safety regarding the reactors. Noting FBI documents that call many nuclear facilities "target rich" for terrorists and places of possible proliferation, Pica said he is

very alarmed. He, like many critics, also point out the growing lack of space for nuclear waste. One such site, Yucca Mountain in Nevada can no longer be used and the increasing pressure to reprocess spent fuel is "dangerous and costly."

Supporters view the move as a step in the right direction. Supporters say that while focus on alternative sources of energy such as wind, solar, and water are great, they cannot meet the current or fu-

ture demands of energy that nuclear power can. They also point out the fact that despite being possible targets for attack, the reactors and plants are in fact very strong and very safe.

Regardless of both sides of the debate, experts are glad the president is moving to address the nation's energy crisis.

MOTHERLAND MONDAYS

South Africa to Build Train

Before the World Cup 2010 kicks off, South Africa plans to complete construction of the first high-speed train in the motherland.

The first phase of Gautrain Rapid Rail Link (GRRL) – the \$3.25 billion project between South Africa, Canada, and France – will connect the country's capital, Pretoria, and Johannesburg to the O.R. Tambo International Airport.

GRRL is currently the largest rail project under construction and the biggest private partnership undertaking by the South African government. The train will travel at a max speed of 100 miles per hour and serve as a green alternative to the popular minibuses that have contributed to the country's congested traffic. The completed GRRL will run six trains in both directions for 18 hours a day. Most of the tracks in Johannesburg and neighboring suburbs will be underground.

The country's official site estimates that the GRRL could employ as many as 18,000 people and stimulate the economy by nearly \$471 million a year.

Construction of GRRL scheduled to be completed by June 2010.

Information from www.SouthAfrica.info

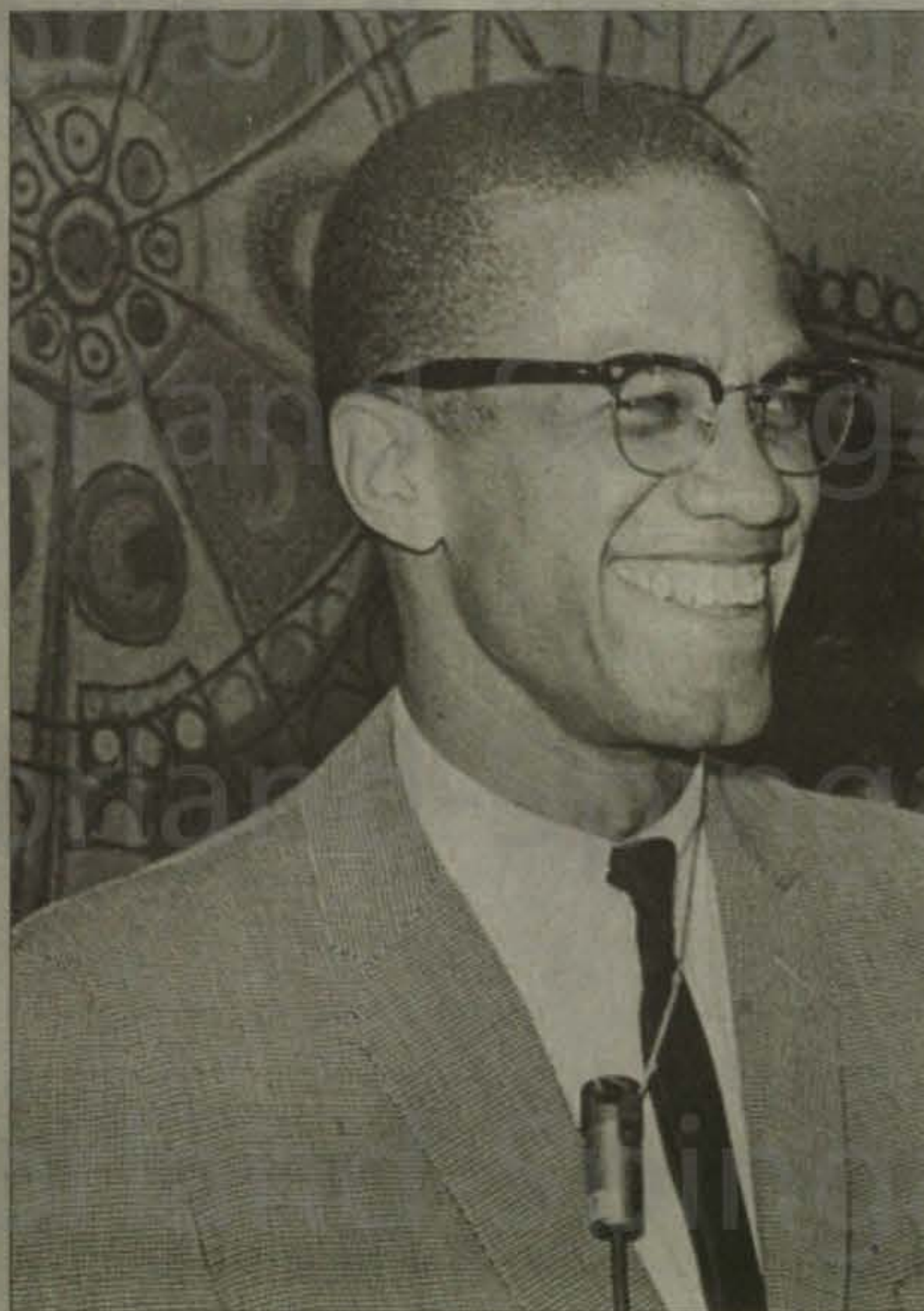
Niger People Promised a Fresh Election

Last Thursday, President Mamadou Tandja of Niger was ousted by a military junta that dissolved all government institutions and established "the Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy" as the new governing body.

As a sign of disapproval, the African Union suspended the country's membership following the coup. Colonel Djibrilla Hima Hamidou, the spokesman for the junta, said Tandja was detained inside of his presidential quarters. The coup leaders planned to call for elections, but they have not announced a timetable. BBC reports that the coup has been the third coup in Africa in 18 months.

Information from www.BBC.com

- Compiled by Derrick I. Haynes
Editorial Assistant



BLACK HISTORY FACT: MALCOLM X WAS ASSASSINATED 45 YEARS AGO YESTERDAY

Born: May 19, 1925

Death: February 21, 1965

Birth Name: Malcolm Little

Changed to El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz

Malcolm was shot while making a speech at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City. He was assassinated by members of the Nation of Islam.

"I believe in a religion that believes in freedom. Any time I have to accept a religion that won't let me fight a battle for my people, I say to hell with that religion."

Information from
"The Autobiography of Malcolm X."

- Compiled by The Hilltop Staff

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

~Zora Neale Hurston~



Do you want to know more about how
to join Hilltop staff?

Come to
The Hilltop's
informational session!

Where: Room 211, C. B. Powell Building
When: Thursday, Feb. 25 at 12:30 p.m.

Food & Drinks
will be served!

THE HILLTOP

Bison Basketball Teams Split Decision Against MEAC Rival

BY ROYCE STRAHAN
Sports Editor

The Bison men's basketball team lost a close one to Florida A&M Rattlers Saturday in overtime in a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) game at the Alfred Lawson Center while the Lady Bison won by a slim margin.

The Bison (7-21 overall, 6-6 in the MEAC) were led by Curtis White who scored 10 points but lost steam in overtime to lose 72-67.

The Rattlers (7-19 overall, 4-9 in the MEAC) went up 32-24 by halftime off of Yannick Crowder, Travis Wallace and Amina Stevens six points each.

Adam Walker, Kyle Riley and Calvin Thompson combined for 23 of the Bison's points, which led the team to tie the game leading into overtime.

Adam Walker ended the game with a double-double of 10 points and a career-high 14 rebounds and Riley put up a career high 15 points for the Bison against their MEAC rivals.

The Lady Bison won their game with 34 seconds left on the clock with a three point field goal from Tamoria Holmes. The final score was 49-48.

The Lady Bison (13-12 overall, 8-5 in the MEAC) trailed by nine with more than 15 minutes left before they went on a 10-0 run.

The Rattlers were led by Tameka McKelton, who had 12 points, and Antonia Bennett, who added 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Lady Bison star athlete Saadiya Doyle scored a game-high



The men's and women's basketball teams split decision Saturday in a conference game against the FAMU Rattlers. Saadiya Doyle led the Lady Bison while Curtis White (pictured above) led the men's team.

17 points and added 11 rebounds to grab her 16th double-double of the season.

The Bison will travel to Daytona Beach, Fla. to take on the

Bethune-Cookman Wildcats on Monday. The Lady Bison start at 5:30 p.m., while the men are slated to start at 7:30 p.m.



Men's Basketball	MEAC Pct	Overall Pct
Morgan St.	11-1 .917	20-9 .690
Delaware St.	9-4 .692	14-10 .583
South Carolina State	8-5 .615	14-10 .583
Maryland-Eastern Shore	7-6 .538	9-18 .333
Norfolk St.	6-6 .500	8-17 .320
Bethune-Cookman	6-7 .462	13-13 .500
North Carolina A&T	6-7 .462	10-16 .385
Howard	6-7 .462	7-20 .259
Hampton	5-8 .385	8-17 .320
Florida A&M	4-9 .308	7-19 .269
Coppin State	2-10 .167	7-18 .280

Women's Basketball	MEAC Pct	Overall Pct
North Carolina A&T	12-1 .923	18-8 .692
Morgan St.	9-3 .750	14-11 .560
Bethune-Cookman	9-4 .692	14-11 .560
Hampton	9-4 .692	14-11 .560
Howard	8-5 .615	13-12 .520
Florida A&M	7-6 .538	15-9 .625
Maryland-Eastern Shore	6-7 .462	9-14 .391
Coppin State	4-8 .333	9-15 .375
South Carolina State	3-10 .231	8-17 .320
Delaware St.	3-10 .231	5-21 .192
Norfolk St.	0-12 .000	4-18 .182

Lady Bison Win Season Opener with 5-1 Score



The Lady Bison softball team opened up their 2010 season with a 5-1 win over Winston-Salem State Saturday at Randy Jones Field. Pitcher Christine Sborz won the game for the Bison while going 3-4 with two runs.

DAVIS WINS 2ND MEDAL



Shani Davis won his second medal of the Vancouver Winter Olympics Saturday in the men's 1500 meter speed skating event. Davis won a gold medal earlier in the Olympics also. Davis became the first African American to win a gold medal in an individual event in the Winter Olympics four years ago.

Sports Trivia!

Who was the first black person to win a gold medal in the Winter Olympics?

Search The Hilltop for the answer!

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

February 22, 1962

Wilt Chamberlain sets NBA record with 34 free throw attempts.

INTERESTED IN WRITING ABOUT YOUR HOMETOWN TEAM OR WANT TO COVER BISON SPORTS?

EMAIL THEHILLTOPSPORTS@GMAIL.COM AND

SHARE YOUR IDEAS.



Step-Off Ends With an Interesting Surprise

In an effort to promote volunteerism and community service, Sprite is continuing their Sprite Step-Off Service Challenge, where step teams, fraternities and sororities from around the nation meet at various Boys and Girls Clubs to compete for the chance to win thousands of dollars in prize money, as well as the opportunity to inspire the nation's youth. Sprite is working with organizations including Ronald McDonald's House Charities and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

This weekend, teams, fraternities and sororities from universities around the nation, including Howard, traveled to Atlanta for the chance to win a considerable amount of prize money, and further recognition for the program. Several teams competed for the opportunity to place in the competition. Interestingly enough, the step-off had an unexpected outcome. Zeta Tau Alpha's Epsilon chapter from the University of Arkansas beat out various Divine Nine sororities for the first place spot.

First of all, *The Hill-*

top would like to extend our sincerest congratulations to the ladies of Zeta Tau Alpha's Epsilon chapter. Judging from the caliber of their performance the ladies really did deserve the title of first place. A large amount of the judges' grading scale was based on crowd participation, of which the ladies

American audience, so obviously an audience expecting a traditional step show with traditional Divine Nine acts was shocked to witness a white sorority win the position of first place.

The win left several students bewildered and confused by the fact that a white sorority won what was "supposed" to be a Divine Nine competition, expressing disdain for the final decision. Although we do agree that the media did not make it clear that the contestants would consist of more than just Divine Nine organizations, the fact that a large part of the judges' deliberations included points from crowd participation, which Zeta Tau Alpha did earn.

Still, regardless of whether the problem lies within false advertising or an attitude of disdain stemming from a white sorority dominating a traditionally and historically black art, we'd like to congratulate the ladies of Zeta Tau Alpha from University of Arkansas for dominating the competition.

Our View: Congratulations to the ladies of Zeta Tau Alpha

obviously garnered. The audience seemed astounded that a Caucasian act was so clearly dominating the competition.

Advertisements of the step competition featured African Americans wearing the colors associated with Divine Nine fraternities and sororities, and for all intended purposes, portrayed the show would feature only Divine Nine acts. The advertisements were definitely geared toward attracting the attention of an African-

Perspective

Upset and Concerned

This past Saturday the National Finals for the Sprite Step Off competition was held in Atlanta. Instead of serving as a positive showcase of stepping tradition, which originated as a means of African-American cultural expression, the event was a production of motives geared to appease reality TV viewers.

The evolution of stepping evolved from African folklore and oral tradition. It was used as a way of self-expression during a time of intense racial oppression through the incorporation of call and response and body movements.

Overtime black Greeks, and eventually the black community as a whole, began to practice this tradition. Recently, major corporations, like McDonald's (a sponsor of the Sprite Step Off) have implemented marketing strategies in an effort to attract and retain customers in the black community.

Sprite has now joined this insincere initiative. Sprite used grass root techniques to solicit representatives of D9 organizations whose job was to inform college campuses of the regional and national competitions.

In each ad only the D9 organizations were featured.

National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) is a staple representation to all black Greeks organizations and used them to solicit major monetary sponsorship. In response to the advertisements, many D9 organizations signed up to compete for 100,000 dollars in scholarships.

The production of the national final competition was poorly planned and it was made evident through a seven hour show. The judges were not Greek affiliated and it begs the question of their ability to critique the dynamics of a skilled step performance.

Furthermore, their bias was shown through a standing ovation that was given to Zeta Tau Alpha prior to the announcement of the winning teams.

During their show, Zeta Tau Alpha proceeded to portray what they considered to be urban dance. However, these movements were nothing more than a portrayal of modern-day minstrelsy.

D9 organizations step because it is a clear reflection of OUR ancestry.

Our music, dance, and fashion culture have been infiltrated by outside communities who have very little knowledge of the history and importance of these sacred traditions.

Although the idea of hosting a national stepping showcase was genius, Sprite's attempt to provide scholarships and target the black community through the solicitation of NPHC organizations through grassroots efforts and overt advertisements proved to be a showcase that disregarded sacred culture in order to provide controversial content for a reality television show.

At the conclusion of the event, Ludacris announced that there will be a second season of the show.

This time around, Sprite should take time to reevaluate their intent, logistical planning and selection of judges in order to truly execute their original reason for hosting a national stepping showcase.

Jasmin Fowler
senior
speech pathology
major

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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

Want to write for The Hilltop?

Come grab a story at our next budget meeting.

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

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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

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

THE HILLTOP

2251 Sherman Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001

(202) 806-4724 (Editorial)

(202) 806-4749 (Business)

businessoffice@thehilltoponline.com

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.

Have something to say?

Send your perspectives to
HilltopEditorials@gmail.com

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.

The Howard University African Business Club Presents:

The 3rd Annual African Business Conference on February 26-27, 2010 School of Business Auditorium Register today at www.howardabc.com or find us on Facebook under "HU African Business Club's 3rd Annual African Business Conference"

Photo Contest

Bison Yearbook

Photo Contest

\$250 Grand Prize Post Pics

to Flickr Group:

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(2009-2010)

Winner

determined by

Flickr

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Contact Bison

Yearbook

for additional

details

Calling all singers and musicians come join

The Howard University Community

Choir

Monday,

February

22, 2010

7pm

Blackburn

142

Tuition Scholarship
If you will be a Junior or Senior during the school year 2010-2011 have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA, and demonstrated community involvement, then you are eligible for the Alpha Kappa Alpha Nellie M. Quander Memorial Scholarship. Applications are available at the Undergraduate and Founders Libraries, Office of Financial Aid and the Information Desk in the Blackburn Center. The application deadline is Friday, March 12, 2010.

"SHOWCASE

YOUR

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Alpha Kappa

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MUSIC

SHOWCASE

ON MARCH

11th!

PLEASE PICK

UP AN

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IN THE

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APPLICA-

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ARE DUE

MARCH 5!!!

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 28 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 2010-2011 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,

Seydler Bell
Seydler Bell
Executive Director

2400 6th Street, NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20036



Telephone: (202) 806-2370
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Show your bff, fraternity brother, sorority sister, favorite professor, your advisor, HU co-worker, or roommate how much you really love them by purchasing a "Birthday Hilltopic" for only \$50.00. The ad is 3.25" by 10.14." We accept JPEG, PDF, TIFF, and GIF.