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WEATHER

59
49
Tomorrow: 68
48

Established
1924

THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 93, NO.96

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Tuesday's Notebook**BREAKING NEWS**

ACCORDING TO CNN.COM, GOOGLE HAS STOPPED CENSORING SEARCH RESULTS IN CHINA.

CAMPUS

VPSA BARBARA GRIFFIN EXPRESSES HER PLANS TO USE HER POSITION TO BETTER THE HU COMMUNITY.

SPORTS

AN EVENT IN BLACKBURN CELEBRATED NEGRO LEAGUE CAREERS. READ SPORTS TO FIND OUT WHO WAS IN ATTENDANCE.

PAGE 2

PAGE 10

Ribeau Addresses Hopes, Future Plans

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON
Campus Editor

In the effort to have more transparency between the students and administration as the university undergoes major changes, President Sidney A. Ribeau held a town hall meeting for the school on Monday. Cramton Auditorium was filled with students, faculty, and administration as Ribeau unveiled upcoming plans for Howard, what the recent Middle States reaccreditation means for the future and an update of the President's Committee on Academic Renewal (PCAR).

It has been a year and a half since Ribeau took office as Howard University's 16th president and he expressed to the audience that he intends to keep the same promises he stated during his speech at last year's convocation. In this speech, Ribeau promised to keep an ongoing dialogue between the administration and the students. "It is very important that they [the students] understand the inner workings of the university," Ribeau said.

After the Middle States committees visited Howard last semester to review its current state, Ribeau announced that the university is now fully reaccredited but with a list of qualities to improve; they will be back in five years to see the university's progress. He said many people didn't think the university would get accreditation.

There were four things that the Middle States listed that they wanted for the university in the future: "successfully complete academic renewal process, continue to increase transparency, improve business process, [and] stabilize our financial progress."

To complete these improvements to the university, Ribeau stressed the need for organization and collaboration by introducing the Operations Committee (OPCOM), which is composed of six university officials. He said the purpose of OPCOM is to make sure problems are being addressed in a timely manner and that things, especially in the area of service, are improved by the fall semester.



President Sidney Ribeau addressed the university at a town hall meeting.

Other goals that President Ribeau has for Howard are to enhance the research status and enrich the undergraduate experience. These goals are planned to be reached through Academic

Renewal, which has plans to invest in the infrastructure, increase staff/faculty compensation and recruit new faculty as well as reevaluate some of the programs in the schools and colleges.

What Health Care Means for Students

BY OLLIE MONTGOMERY
Staff Writer

One of the largest legislative overhauls in decades will become law today. President Barack Obama, who has pushed for a progressive overhaul of the health care industry since the start of his Administration, viewed the final passage of the measure Sunday night as "a victory for the American people and a victory for common sense."

The Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010 was passed in a 219-212 vote by the U.S. House of Representatives, a measure previously passed by the U.S. Senate. No Republican voted for the bill, while 34 Democrats also voted against it, fearing a potential backlash in this November's midterm elections.

The bill will extend health coverage to 32 million Americans who currently lack health insurance via a mandate that will allow almost every citizen purchase insurance. To help achieve this, Medicaid will be expanded and subsidies will be given to families with incomes up to \$88,000. Those who still neglect to purchase insurance will be fined up to \$695 or 2.5 percent of their annual income.

For Matthew J. Bennet, senior nursing major and a diabetic since the age of three, the changes are welcome and appreciated.

"I think it's really positive and as a nursing major, I feel it'll change a lot for the better," he said.

Like many others, Bennet will benefit under the pre-existing condition provision, which makes it illegal for companies to refuse coverage to those with pre-existing medical conditions. Another provision of the legislation allows children to stay on their parents' insurance coverage until age 26. The laws regarding pre-existing conditions do not come into effect until 2014, but in the meantime people will enter "high-risk pools," which offer caps on premiums and out-of-pocket spending. However, only those who have been without coverage for six months are eligible.

According to one *Newsweek* article, young adults account for roughly one-third of the uninsured population, but six months from now, insurance companies will be legally required to extend coverage to all dependents under age 26. Those who cannot rely on their parents' plan will either find their own insurance or face a \$95 fine. The fine will rise to \$325 by 2015 and max out at \$695 the following year. If affordable coverage (less than eight percent of their income) is not available, they will be exempt from the mandate.

Victoria Fortune,

> See **HEALTH**, page 12

HU Student Dies Over Spring Break

BY DEONTAY MORRIS & JANA HOMES
Hilltop Staff

"He always had a smile on his face. He helped make life easier for those around him. He will be missed but he will live on through how he made other people's lives better," said Inez Franklin the mother of Davon Green-Franklin. Green-Franklin was a graduating senior administration of justice major from Baltimore who died due to an accidental drowning during Spring Break on March 14 in Cancun, Mexico.

He was known by a multitude of students around the campus of Howard. The personal connections he made during his time at the Mecca were visibly evident at

the vigil held for him in Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel the night of his death. Despite rain and many students being on Spring Break, droves of Howard alumni, faculty and students attended the vigil in his honor that began around 10:30 p.m. Many people got up and spoke on how Green-Franklin touched their lives. The vigil was heavily attended by two organizations of which Green-Franklin was heavily involved, Howard University's Campus Pals and Xi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

"I always looked into his eyes and I never saw any fear take his fire with you in your daily lives to go against the obstacles," said Richard Norwood, a fellow member of Xi Chapter, Kappa Alpha Psi

> See **DAVON**, page 7



Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Williams

Student Davon Green-Franklin passed away during Spring Break in Cancun.



Photo Courtesy of HU Sports Information Office

University Fires Head Basketball Coach

Head coach of the Howard University men's basketball team, Gil Jackson, was released yesterday by the Athletic Department.

The announcement was made to the basketball team by athletic director, Charles Gibbs, who recently began his tenure.

"It was kind of expected because of the hard year at Howard," graduating senior and team captain Kandi Mukole said. "It's like AD [Athletic Director] said, 'It's all about business,' and I guess that's the reason for him being released."

The 62-year-old coach compiled a dismal 37-118 record in five seasons during his tenure as head coach and may not have expected to be released according to Mukole.

"The last time we talked was at the last game of the tournament," he said. "He wanted to meet up with us and talk about next year, so I don't think he was expecting it."

-Royce Strahan, Sports Editor

States Plan to Sue to Government Over Health Care

BY DERRICK HAYNES
Editorial Assistant

Before President Obama signs a historic health care bill into legislation, 12 Republican attorney generals announced plans to file lawsuits about the bill's legality.

Virginia Attorney General Kenneth Cuccinelli plans to file a lawsuit in the federal court of Richmond, Va. In a Reuters interview, Cuccinelli said that the Constitution does not grant Congress the power to force states to purchase insurance. He also said the bill clashes with a recently

passed state law that forbids any mandate to force residents to buy health care coverage.

Virginia's HJR 103 bill became law on March 10 - making the state the first in the nation to pass a statute that counteracts the health care bill.

While Cuccinelli plans to file alone, eleven attorney generals plan to file a collective lawsuit on behalf of their respective states. The eleven states involved in the pending lawsuit include Alabama, Florida, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas,

Utah and Washington.

One of the arguments of the attorney generals' opposition to the bill includes the possible violation of the Tenth Amendment of the Constitution. The Tenth Amendment states that, "powers not delegated to United States by the Constitution... are reserved to the states."

Historically, the Tenth Amendment has been referred to as "state's rights." The issue of state's rights was used as a justification for the secession of Southern states throughout the Civil War.

Last year, Governor Rick

Perry (R-TX) rekindled talks of secession when he suggested that the drastic measure could be an option - in opposition of President Obama's health care reform plans.

Besides the lawsuits, 36 state legislatures are debating possible state constitutional amendments or laws that to limit portions of the health care bill. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Democrat-controlled state legislatures such as Illinois and New York do not have any emerging legislation opposing health care reform.

Moment of Clarity

Life is Short



BY ANDREW JONES
Contributing Columnist

This spring break, the Howard community was rocked to its core with the tragic and harsh reminder that life is short. The transition of Davon Green-Franklin from our physical lives caused us to question the very sense of reality that gives us the most basic comfort. The immediate outpouring of memories and support demonstrated the true impact that Davon's short life had on so many of us. As we gather with his family in celebration of that life, we must also gather in reflection of what is to be learned from this tragedy.

The first thing that we must accept is that there are things that happen beyond our most creative logic and reason, beyond our worldly understanding. That's harder to grasp because we are so intellectual and analytical, we exist in a world that we have been made to think we understand and can control. Accept it and free yourself from the impossible burden of trying to figure everything out. Apply this to your life. Prepare yourself for opportunity and greatness, and understand that your fate depends partially on your preparation, and partially on the unknown.

Secondly, we have to live deliberately and meaningfully. Your time at Howard, and indeed on this earth, is limited. What you do with that time, however, has no limitation. Will you touch the lives of others, helping someone as you pass? Will you stand for a purpose that is more important than your self-fulfillment? Will you abandon ego and petty differences to build relationships with people? Will you assist in the advancement of this institution and of the community to which you belong? Will your life, no matter how long it lasts, be memorable and worthy?

Thirdly, we have to treat each other better. Often we don't realize that we are mistreating people simply by assuming their importance is based on our familiarity with them. Every human life is to be cherished, celebrated, and preserved. It doesn't matter if they are a popular Howard student, drug-addicted homeless man, widowed Haitian woman, or hungry African child. Lives are short as it is, but often made way too short simply because we who are in positions to extend them don't bother to.

Lastly, take some time EACH day to express to those in your life that you love and appreciate them. Losses are made worse when we have so many unspoken truths to tell. Lives are made worse when we have so many unresolved issues and petty drama that gets in the way of those truths. We are all made more full by our relationship with others; so invest time and energy into those relationships.

A life should never be measured in years, months, or days. It should be measured in laughs, cries, memories, hugs and happiness. Not in the amount of minutes that you lived, but the amount of moments that you shared. By that qualification, Davon lived a full and meaningful life, one that will be celebrated and remembered by all those who shared in it. Let's strive to be more like Davon.

- Andrew Jones is a senior legal communications major. Read more of his blogs on thehilltoponline.com

The Hilltop Talks With New VSPA Barbara Griffin About Plans for HU

BY CAMILLE AUGUSTIN
Staff Writer

Inclusive. This is the word that Vice President of Student Affairs (VSPA) Barbara Griffin, Ph.D., has chosen to describe her leadership style.

"I very much respect the ideas and recommendations of others," Griffin said. "I am a team player who likes to build consensus. I have a great deal of respect for and faith in the people; students, staff and faculty that I work with."

Griffin said she was "quite surprised" when President Sidney A. Ribeau first spoke to her about the VSPA position. Although her background is mainly academic, how President Ribeau described his concept of Student Affairs to Griffin as "a more comprehensive vision than we have at present time" helped her to make her decision.

"For a few days, I

thought seriously about backing away from the challenge," Griffin said. "But then I thought about the strong support that was already in place."

Griffin described this strong support as the excellent students and faculty, the great Student Affairs staff, a vision from a new president, and the energy and respect for Howard University's legacy of excellence.

"It was then that I realized, perhaps, I could make a small contribution," Griffin said. "I became excited about the great things we do at Howard like forging vibrant partnerships with faculty through the Office of the Provost to develop theme-based courses in the dormitories and service learning projects."

Griffin described the position of VSPA as someone that can bring the interests and concerns of the students directly

to the president and work more closely with the Office of the Provost in an effort to re-envision Student Affairs on a broader scale. This, she said, can be accomplished with a more focused and purposeful mission.

What Griffin likes most about her position is the contact with students. "That is no small thing!" she said. Griffin worked closely with students in her previous positions of Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (COAS) for six years and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of English and Associate Chair for about four years.

"Students are energetic and optimistic about life, as they should be," Griffin said. "We in Student Affairs are committed to President Ribeau's vision of a Student Affairs Division that impacts student life and development in every aspect; academi-

cally, culturally and socially."

Changes that Griffin plans to implement are opening up more opportunities for students to take an active part in making Student Affairs "the premier component that it should be at a great institution like Howard University." This will occur by sponsoring forums where students and Student Affairs staff meet regularly for dialogue about issues important to each side. Griffin plans to enhance student experiences on campus and make an effort to engage the academic component of the University.

Griffin said she also, and most importantly, plans to be a visible leader. "I am very proud that I represent the students and consider it an honor indeed to be asked to serve in this capacity to be accessible to the generation that will soon run the world is a privilege."

HU Graduate Student Balances School, Work and Family Life

BY KRISTEN BRISCOE
Contributing Writer

Anika Gray, a Howard University graduate student begins her day at 5 a.m. Gray rushes quickly to wake her two daughters, ages nine and 10, and her son, age five. "I leave my house in Northeast D.C. around 6:40 a.m. to drop the kids off at day care and then I go to school," Gray said.

Not only is Gray a full-time mother, she is also a student, teacher and friend to many at Howard University. Gray is a Spanish major who also teaches Spanish I.

"She [Anika] is very helpful and kind-hearted," says Vijoli Jothi, a human development major. "I have no Spanish experience, but with Miss Neka as my teacher, I'm sure I'll do well," continued Jothi.

Gray was born Plainfield, N.J., but spent the majority

of her childhood in Hollywood, Fl. Gray made a home in Burlington, N.C. before moving to D.C. in 2008 to attend Howard University.

Gray recalls commuting back and forth between North Carolina and Howard University every Tuesday and Thursday her first semester.

"The five to six-hour commute was tough, but I had to be with my children," Gray said.

Gray's father is a general contractor and her mother is a medical secretary. She is the oldest sibling of three girls.

"My role models are my friends and family - the people that are close to me," Gray said.

Two to three days a week, Gray spends her mornings at the Library of Congress doing research about blacks in Mexico.

For Gray, a semester abroad in Mazatlan, Mexico was

an eye-opening experience.

"Being in Mexico was a humbling experience," Gray said. "Seeing kids with no food or clothing in Mexico really made me realize that being that I'm a poor person in America, I still have more than other people do in other countries."

"I have food, shelter and clothing for my family. I have the necessities and no matter how bad things get I always manage to have them. Some people in Mexico don't even have the basics," she said.

Gray would like to use her degree to pursue a career as a college professor and eventually wants to open up a bilingual day care.

Gray is content with the life that she has cultivated. For her, happiness does not necessarily mean being married. "I wanted to grow up and get married, but it didn't work out that way, but I'm happy. I decided

not to sacrifice my happiness to be married to someone that isn't for me," Gray said.

When Gray has a free moment, she likes to read books of her choice that aren't required reading for school, but said that she rarely has free time.

"When we do have free time, I like to escape to my favorite beach in Myrtle Beach, S.C.," Gray said. "I always find a way to provide for my family and that really stands out to me."

"She, [Miss Neka], keeps it real with you and lets you know exactly what you have to do to do well," said Benjamin Lawrence, a psychology major. "And if you don't do well in her class, then that is your own fault, because she sends out a lot of e-mails."

Gray has become a valued and appreciated member of the Howard community. *The Hilltop* salutes her efforts.

Let your voice be heard.
Students, come out to the town hall
meeting Wednesday in the
School of Business Auditorium
at 7 p.m.

Other upcoming meetings:

- Wednesday, March 31

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

School of Social Work Auditorium

- Thursday, April 8

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Law School Moot Courtroom

- Tuesday, April 13

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

College of Medicine Auditorium

"Where there is no vision, the people will perish."

- Proverbs 29:18



On Sunday, March 14, a vigil was held for senior Davon Green-Franklin where Howard students gathered in unity to share their fondest memories of Green-Franklin and the countless ways that he touched their lives. For many, Green-Franklin's legacy rests with the thoughts, words of wisdom and encouragement that he shared with them during his life and tenure at Howard University.

In Loving Memory of Davon Green- Franklin

July 16,
1987

March 14,
2010

"My husband and I both remember when Davon was accepted to Howard. He was so excited about coming because he had heard great things about Howard. It was one of the moments he was truly happy. When we came to bring him during freshman move-in we could see it all over him. It seemed he had been waiting to get there and to do well. He loved Howard University."

- Inez Franklin, mother of Davon Green-Franklin

"He was my neighbor. He was one of those people I can say that God puts in your life at the right time. I'd be leaving the iLab and he would give me a ride to my house just to be nice. He genuinely cared."

- Rogi Banks, junior theatre arts education major

"I was in the worst mood in my apartment. Davon asked my roommate, 'What's wrong with Paige?' He said, 'Anytime Paige's hair is not done she's not in a bad mood.' He tried to whisper but I heard him. It definitely made me feel a lot better."

- Paige Fenn, senior public relations major

"The Tuesday before Davon passed, we sat on The Yarl enjoying the first day of warm weather. The conversation started to shift towards a talk about life, and in true Davon-fashion, he dropped gem after gem of knowledge on the entire crowd. I didn't know that it would be the last bit of knowledge I would get from him, but I'm so thankful for that and the countless other moments that I was able to have with him."

- Calvin Simmons, senior supply chain management major

"Davon claimed he was faster than me. I assured him that he didn't want any parts. But if you know Davon, then you know he doesn't back down from a challenge. God rest his soul, but my boy took the 'L' that ace. He said 'I knew I lost as soon as you took off'."

- Donald Tyson, senior psychology major

"Our probate was my favorite memory with Davon. It seemed liked everything came together. We came from a relationship where we didn't get along to riding and dying for each other. He meant so much to me. I can't even begin to explain it."

- Norman Gyamfi, former Howard student





Presidential Commission on Academic Renewal (PCAR)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is PCAR? Why was it developed?

President Sidney Ribeau, Ph.D. has indicated his commitment to maintaining the University as one of our nation's premier institutions of higher education and to significantly improving its academic programs, administrative operations and service to students, faculty and staff. He stressed the need to efficiently use the University's existing and new resources and strategically aligning them with the University's mission and vision. He created PCAR, a representative group of faculty, students, staff, alumni and external experts to review the University's academic portfolio and make recommendations to him for required adjustments. After receiving nominations from the Faculty Senate, HUSA, deans and others, the President selected members of the University community to serve on the Commission.

Are small programs/concentrations represented on the Commission?

There are representatives on the PCAR from several small programs and/or concentrations. The PCAR is broadly representative of the University and its academic programs. It is important to note that PCAR members are not asked to represent particular programs; rather, they are asked to represent the general strategic interest of the University and its students, faculty and staff.

When will PCAR do its work?

The Commission began its work building upon prior departmental, school and college program assessments, program reaccreditation self-studies, and the recently completed two-year Middle States Self-Study which contains the recommendations for "renewal" of the operational, administrative, technological and facilities components of the University.

PCAR has now turned its focus to "academic renewal" operating with a timeline which began in December 2009 and will end in 2010 with recommendations to the President.

When will recommended and/or approved changes take effect?

Changes will be phased in over the course of three to four years to allow students in the pipeline ample time to complete their programs.

How will the work of the Commission be done?

The Commissioners are divided into four programmatic workgroups, which are chaired by distinguished faculty members. They are:

1. Undergraduate Programs
2. Graduate Programs
3. Professional Programs- Other Than Health Sciences
4. Professional Programs – Health Sciences

A critical part of the Commission's work involves outreach to the deans and department chairs. Visits will be scheduled with school and college deans, department chairs and faculty to discuss academic program mission and vision, to verify program data that are currently on file; and to receive perspectives on the dimensions of Howard that makes it unique. The Commissioners will also take questions and comments regarding the PCAR process and the future of Howard University.

What criteria will be used by the Commissioners to evaluate academic programs?

The Commission is reviewing each academic program using the following six general performance criteria: (1) Relationship to Mission, (2) Academic Quality, (3) Research, (4) Academic Centrality & Necessity, (5) Enrollment and (6) Sustainability. Each of the four Commission workgroups have also identified additional related factors in each programmatic area for discussion in

recognition of the fact that all programs should not be evaluated in the same manner.

What are some of the questions that will be asked during the Commission's site visits?

Some of the questions that will be asked of faculty and administrators in the various program areas are:

- What do you see as Howard University's unique niche in 2015? 2025?
- How do you see your department and its programs contributing to the realization of the University's future vision?
- If there is one thing you could improve at Howard University (or in your program), what would it be and how would you effect the improvement?
- What do you see as the uniqueness of Howard University and how does your program contribute to that uniqueness?
- What existing or expected interdisciplinary or inter-university activities is your department engaged in?
- What disciplinary, national, or international trends do you anticipate will have an impact on your programs?

Will you get student input before final decisions are made?

President Ribeau has indicated that, in addition to student participation on the Commission, he will present his recommendations to students, faculty and staff prior to presenting them to the Board of Trustees. In addition, students may participate and make comments on the PCAR Public Discussion Forum at <http://pcar-full-commission.blogspot.com>.

Who will be directly affected?

The PCAR process includes an assessment of each of the University's academic programs in the Health Sciences and Academic Affairs Divisions. The unit of evaluation is the program, not the department, specialty or school/college. Each program will be evaluated using external and internal benchmark data as to their strengths, weaknesses, challenges, operational performance, costs and sustainability.

What will it mean to programs already in existence?

Programs already in existence, if they are proven to be of high quality relevant to Howard's mission, will have the benefit of additional resources, both faculty and financial, to expand and grow to become more competitive in the higher education marketplace.

Will there be new programs added as a result of PCAR?

The Commission has not completed its reviews. It has not reached any conclusions about what, if any, new academic programs may be recommended to President Ribeau for consideration.

Are there any programs that are at a greater risk of being eliminated?

The Commission has not completed its program reviews. It has not reached any conclusions about any of the University's academic programs.

How will the review affect small programs?

Small academic programs are an important part of the University's curricular offerings. Our smaller programs will be evaluated, like all others, using the six evaluative criteria. The size of an academic program is not the only criterion that will be used in assessing our academic programs.

Will enrollment be affected?

A successful PCAR process will enhance the status of the University as an institution of first choice among undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

How will this affect the University's budget?

At the conclusion of the PCAR initiative, the University will be able to more effectively use available financial, personnel, and other resources to support the programs that it decides are most closely aligned with its mission and immediate and long-term strategic goals. At the conclusion of the process, the University will be able to better support high quality programs and improve facilities and technology by redirecting resources where they are needed.

How does the President hope the changes will affect the University?

President Ribeau is confident that the PCAR initiative, joined with other process improvement actions, described in the 2009 Self-Study Report, will ensure that the University continues to address areas of critical societal and human needs through its diverse academic programs, unique research focus, instruction and community service. The Commission will help the President strategically redirect resources – faculty, staff, financial and technological – to support academic programs of highest priority and quality that are central to the University's mission.

What has been the general reaction to PCAR?

The general response to the PCAR process has been positive as faculty, students and staff members have come to know more about it.

How is the review process being explained to students?

The Commission is using various mechanisms to ensure that our students are fully engaged in the PCAR initiative, including town hall meetings, an interactive website, HU Radio and Television interviews, information provided by the Office of University Communications, and articles in the Hilltop, Capstone Online and the Howard Magazine. An interactive PCAR website is available to students, faculty and staff with links to a public discussion form. (<http://www.provost.howard.edu/PCAR.asp>) We are also exploring the use of Facebook and other forms of social networking to enhance our students' engagement with the PCAR initiative.

What reaction are you anticipating from the Students?

It is our expectation that students will react positively and appreciate the idea of PCAR moving Howard forward with high quality programs and an ability to attract distinguished faculty and staff. Students, over the long-term, will ultimately reap the benefit of having a Howard University poised for the future with up-to-date, facilities and technology and a competitive faculty.

How can students who are not on the Commission assist in the process or provide feedback to the Commission?

Students may give input through the PCAR Public forum at <http://pcar-full-commission.blogspot.com>. Students will be able to give feedback at one of the Town Hall Meetings that will be held during the Spring semester. The initial one will be held on March 24, 2010, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the School of Business Auditorium. We are also planning to develop a FACEBOOK or Twitter presence so that students may provide input in this manner as well.

Alvin Thornton, Ph.D.
Chair, Presidential Commission on Academic Renewal

Presidential Commission on Academic Renewal

A Discussion About PCAR and Howard's Uniqueness

What we have been attempting to name, qualify and quantify and ultimately affirm, improve and leverage, that is "unique and irreplaceable" about Howard University, are the culturally-grounded, non-race-based modalities which inform teaching and learning dedicated to questions of the human condition. There is a Howard "type" of faculty, student and staff which we must identify and replicate in order to give the word "quality" real meaning.

- Gregg Carr, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of
Afro-American Studies

A university has multiple missions by its nature. Essentially, what must be emphasized is not a manufactured "unique mission" for Howard. It has the same essential mission as all other universities, teaching and research. What needs to be emphasized are the *ideas* to which it is committed as priorities, the focus of its programs, and the social significance of its provision of education and health services to underserved populations, while not marginalizing those programs that are not tightly or obviously aligned with them or a mission statement.

- Michael Winston, Ph.D.
Vice President Emeritus



Faculty and students are invited to attend any or all of the following meetings and be a part of the discussion on academic renewal at Howard University

- Alvin Thornton, Ph.D., Chair, Presidential Commission on Academic Renewal

Wednesday, March 24, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

School of Business Auditorium; 2600 - 6th Street, NW - 2nd Floor
Focus: PCAR discussion and the uniqueness of Howard University
Target Audience: Student Body (Undergraduate/Graduate/Professional)

Tuesday, March 30, 2010, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Venue: TBA
Focus: PCAR discussion and the Uniqueness of Howard University
Target Audience: Law/Divinity School Students

Wednesday, March 31, 2010, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

School of Social Work Auditorium; 601 Howard Place, NW - Lower Level
Focus: PCAR Status Report
Target Audience: Undergraduate and Graduate Faculty

Thursday, April 8, 2010, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Venue: TBA
Focus: PCAR Status Report
Target Audience: Professional Program Faculty - Other Than Health Sciences

Tuesday, April 13, 2010, 2:00 4:00 p.m.

College of Medicine Auditorium, Room 3019; 520 W Street, N.W. - 3rd Floor
Focus: PCAR Status Report
Target Audience: Professional Program Faculty - Health Sciences



**HOWARD
UNIVERSITY**

Questions about the town hall meetings should be directed to Bonyale Bissé, Ph.D., PCAR Coordinator, at mbiss@howard.edu. For more information on PCAR visit <http://www.pcar@howard.edu>

Somali Community Advocates for Issues Facing Country

BY JARONDAKIE PATRICK
Contributing Writer

The Somali community is making huge strides to increase awareness when it comes to issues they face in their own community. Their aim is to make those outside their community aware of the issues affecting their native country, Somalia.

Influences of the Somali culture found in neighborhoods in Virginia, Maryland and D.C. seem authentic as though the Somali community began there. For individuals attached to their culture, it may be hard to divide their attention between America and Somalia.

"I classify myself as being an American and Somali by culture," Ilhaan Mohamed said. "My parents instilled culture roots and not to forget, forget the language. I always carry that with me."

This sentiment is something that 23-year-old Mohamed took with her when she got the chance

to deliver a speech at the First Annual Somali Diaspora Youth Conference. She delivered an inspirational speech to encourage the youth in attendance to become leaders while embracing their Somali roots.

In August, the Somali community held the youth conference centered on bringing the Somali youth together to exchange their experiences to reach the Somali communities throughout America.

The conference included a panel of young Somalis with an audience of media, non-Somalis, and adult Somalis.

Within the crowd stood Chairman Ahmed Elmi of The Somali American Community Association who was joyfully listening to the video of the conference. His admiration of those future leaders sparked smiles and remarks.

As chairman of the association, Elmi volunteers in addition to helping other members finance the association's activities out of pocket.

"I've been volunteering since college and always knew I would continue," Elmi said.

The Somali American Community Association began after a meeting in a local parking lot to collect donations in order to help a Somali family pay for the funeral arrangements of their child.

"By word of mouth, we collected \$5,000," Elmi said.

He said he called five people and told them to call five people and that is how The Somali American Community Association came to be.

In Somalia, 22 percent of Somali children attend primary school and one in five Somalis are illiterate.

The Somali American Community Association has tried to do away with this one of many statistics as Somalis make their way to America.

The association has created a Parent-tutor Connection program. The program sends volunteers out to tutor children and help parents if needed. The associa-

tion began running this program, along with two others, for the last three years after realizing there were Somali women living in the U.S. for almost 15 years and could not speak English or read.

The association also reaches some other cultures in need of assistance as well. "There are Somali, Ethiopian, Senegal and African-American women in the program," Elmi said.

The Somali community, recently upset with the conditions of their native country, got together and started Save Somalia Humanitarian and Refugee Crisis Campaign. The goals of the campaign are: educate the public, engage the U.S. Congress, establish student clubs and partner with key institutions to appeal for help.

American Somalis dissatisfied and broken hearted by recent events in their country are yelling "Awareness!" to the top of their lungs.

Mohamed is a youth activist trying to stay active in the Somali community by working with

the campaign. "I go around giving out speeches in schools and programs."

Somali community member Yusuf Aden referenced the actions of the other Somali communities within the U.S., identifying the Minnesota incidence, and the bombing of students in Mogadishu to state that he believes that every community is the same.

"Every community has [its] had apples, but we try to focus on the good ones," Aden said.

The Somali community seeks to uplift and build continuing traditions.

The state of their native home has not been forgotten. Efforts will continue to be made to educate those unfamiliar with America's system, who need assistance learning how to survive even with a lack of skills.

The Somali community is a home of its own. It is fertilizing incite for other Somalis and non-Somalis by bridging communities through a Somali movement within the borders of America.



Photo Courtesy of reformimmigrationforamerica.org

Thousands Rally on Capitol Hill for Immigration Reform

The immigration debate was brought to the forefront again as tens of thousands of protesters rallied on Capitol Hill. Organizers of the march estimated 200,000 people to be in attendance on Sunday from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

The demonstrators demanded that President Obama fulfill his campaign promise of granting citizenship to illegal immigrants. The aim of March for America was to urge Congress to put the immigration issue on its agenda.

According to the organizers, there are 12 million immigrants in the U.S. who live, work, pay taxes and participate in communities, but are still not fully considered Americans.

People from across the U.S. came to demand that Obama and Congress act on the issue immediately using the motto "Change Takes Courage." They also called for economic justice, to include improved wages, working conditions and labor protections.

- Genet Lakew, Metro Editor

In D.C. This Week

Lynne Olson (Journalist)
Former White House correspondent
National Press Club
529 14th St. NW
Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Free

Mac McClelland (Author)
Editor at Mother Jones magazine
Busboys and Poets
1025 5th St. NW
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Free

Tuesday Night Open Mic Poetry featuring
Rasheed Copeland
Busboys and Poets
2021 14th St. NW
Tuesday 9 p.m.
\$4

Intro to Improv Workshops
The Children's Studio School
1301 V St. NW
Tuesday - Friday 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Free

- Compiled by Genet Lakew, Metro Editor

Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown D.C.



Brian Gertl - Photo Editor

This year's parade held Sunday at noon was themed "The Irish that Built America." Frank Saul, founder of Chevy Chase Bank and Robert J. Hickey, a former FBI agent were honored at the parade.

Senior Leaves Lasting Final Impression on Student Body

continued from FRONT, DAVON

Fraternity Inc.

Many students that knew Green-Franklin often went to him for advice and words of wisdom. It was his outgoing personality and will to help others that his mother said made him decide to apply to divinity school. It was his goal to practice ministry full time.

"Davon was sensitive to the needs of others. He felt that he was led by God to be in ministry full time. He was in the process of applying to the divinity schools at Princeton, Emory and Howard," his mother said.

Green-Franklin's mother said she has been overwhelmed by the amount of people that her son touched during his life. Once again, Green-Franklin's impact continued to spread to rest of the world on the fittingly rainy night. The name Davon Green-Franklin became the number one trending topic on Twitter in America on the night of March 14, as thousands of people connected to the Howard community expressed their condolences.

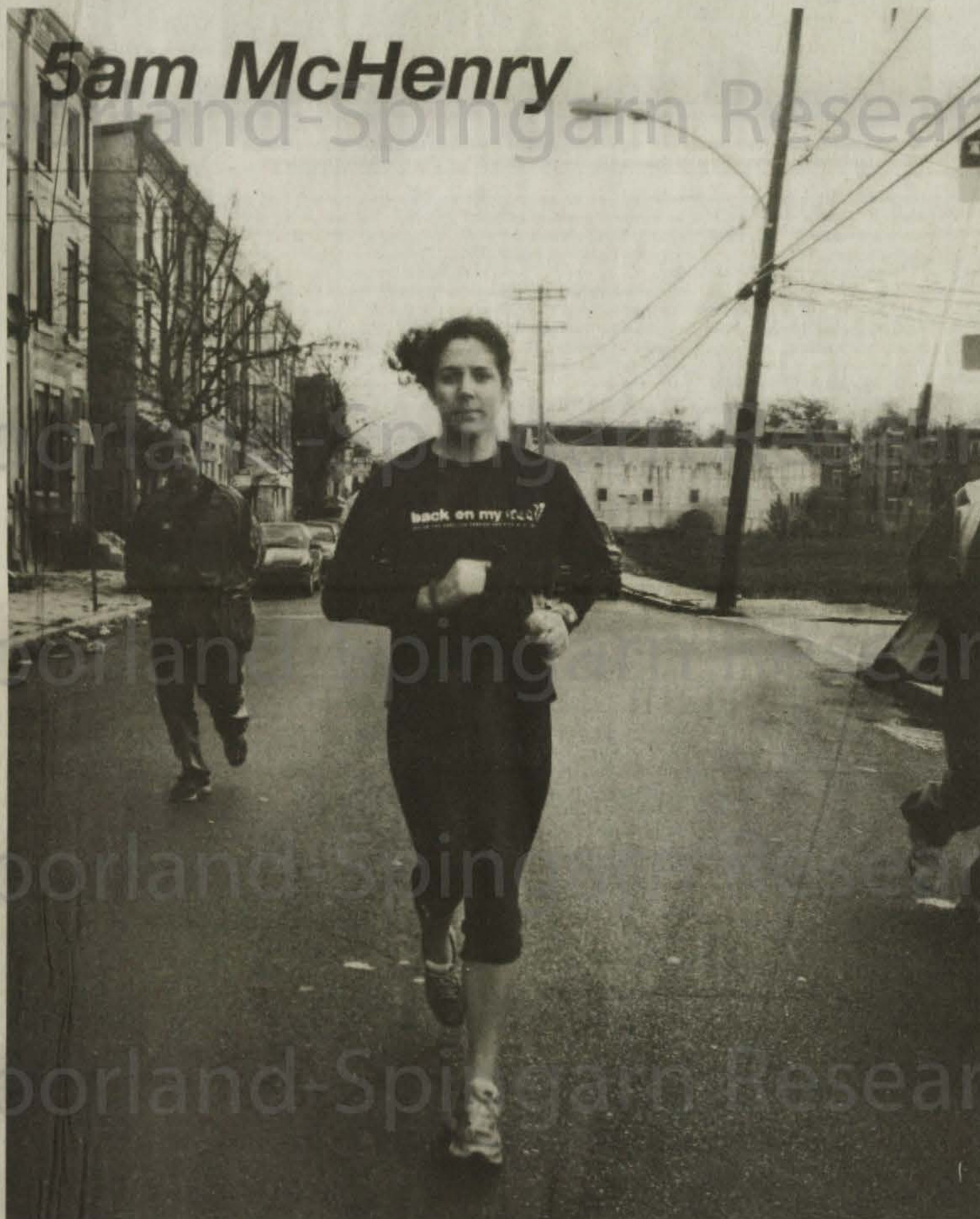
Howard University Student Association (HUSA) President-elect Brandon Harris and Vice President-elect William Roberts

have advocated for a degree to be presented to his family. At yesterday's Town Hall meeting in Cramton Auditorium, President Sidney A. Ribeau asked that everyone take a moment of silence to honor Green-Franklin. Today, a memorial service for Green-Franklin will be held in Catonsville, Md. His family said they are still awaiting all the details of his tragic death.

"He will be missed. However, we are grateful for his life and his legacy and how he helped so many other people get through tough times," said Green-Franklin's mother.

Hilltop Tip #15

Don't skip class because the weather is nice. You will fail.




Suzanne McHenry is no feather in the wind. Every day, she rises with the sun to run with the homeless. Every day, she's feeding her life, her career and her future.

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THE HILLTOP

Nintendo to Use Consoles in Classrooms

BY EVAN HOLLINS
Staff Writer

In an interview with *The Associated Press*, video game designer and producer, Shigeru Miyamoto, revealed that he is working to turn Nintendo Corporation's brand of handheld consoles into educational aids and teaching tools.

"That is maybe the area where I am devoting myself most," Japanese video game guru Miyamoto said during the interview.

Miyamoto, who has created some of the most successful video game franchises of all time such as Mario, Donkey Kong and The Legend of Zelda, revealed that the Nintendo DS is already being used in Japanese museums and aquariums.

Miyamoto also stated that in the new school year, in Japan, the Nintendo DS will be utilized in junior high schools and elementary schools.

Those who are familiar with video games, especially the Nintendo DS, are confident in the effectiveness video games can present to the classroom.

"With the DS's wireless capabilities, students could download and complete assignments entirely on the handheld. The DS is also extremely easy to use, so it would be very easy for teachers and students to learn to operate," said KeVon Ticer, a sophomore computer science major.

In an age that has been dominated by advances in technology, schools have been attempting to figure out better ways to incorporate technology into the classrooms for a more productive and enjoyable learning experience for its many students.

Some Howard students believe that Howard can do a better job of utilizing technology in classrooms, in comparison to other schools and universities.

"As a student who went to a technologically advanced school be-



Educators are beginning to think that new technologies, which catch the attention of young people, may help facilitate learning and increase understanding in the classroom environment. Nintendo has taken this idea into consideration.

fore Howard, HU is far from being where it could be... or even better, where it should be," senior sociology major Jason Heard said.

Sophomore film major Alex Barnes added, "I am a film major and I feel like a lot of equipment and cameras that Howard has for us are very outdated and old... With the high cost of attendance, it is Howard's duty to provide the students with the best possible learning experience and good technology."

Students expressed knowledge of the Howard administration's failure to fulfill professors' desires for better technology in the classrooms.

"I have had experiences in particular classes where teachers

expressed the desire to use particular computer programs or equipment such as projectors that were not easily available to them," Ticer said.

Students have also expressed that there are teachers who attempt to utilize the most up-to-date and popular technology available to make the classroom experience more manageable.

"Teachers are even beginning to give assignments on Facebook and Twitter. And classes are even being taught online," Barnes said.

"I have had many classes in which teachers had their own personal Web sites through which students could download video lectures, PowerPoint slides, and home-

work assignments and check their grades in real time as they turn in assignments," Ticer said.

Acknowledging the technological nature of his major, Ticer added, "I have also had teachers that ignore any communications technology that was invented after the telephone."

Though there is some disappointment in Howard University's lack of utilizing technology more effectively, students remain confident that Howard will easily fix the issue.

Barnes put it best when he simply stated, "Howard may be behind now [when compared to other universities], but that doesn't mean Howard has to stay behind."

EFFECT OF TECHNOLOGY ON STUDENTS

- CHANGE IN STUDENT AND TEACHER ROLES
- STUDENTS BECOME ACTIVE LEARNERS INSTEAD OF PASSIVELY LISTENING TO INSTRUCTORS, WHO NOW ACT AS FACILITATORS
- INCREASED MOTIVATION AND SELF-ESTEEM
- TECHNICAL SKILLS
- ACCOMPLISHMENT OF MORE COMPLEX TASKS
- MORE COLLABORATION WITH PEERS
- INCREASED USE OF OUTSIDE RESOURCES
- IMPROVED DESIGN SKILLS/ATTENTION TO AUDIENCE
- COMPILED FROM A RESEARCH PROJECT SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Viacom, YouTube in Legal Battle Over Copyright Laws

BY GERRON JORDAN
Staff Writer

In a time where sites like watch-movies.net and hulu.com have become regularly visited for movie and television show viewing, the truth is coming out about copyright laws with one major video sharing Web site, YouTube.

According to Michael Liedtke of *The Associated Press*, Viacom Inc. and Google Inc.'s YouTube site began airing each other's dirty laundry Thursday, providing a peek at the wheeling and dealing that triggered a bitter battle over the copyright laws governing the Internet.

The previously confidential information came out as part of the evidence in a copyright lawsuit that Viacom filed against YouTube in 2007 for alleged copyright infringement of "The Colbert Report," "The Daily Show" and other shows.

"When I first heard about this, I looked past it, because I thought that YouTube was one of the most ethical of video sharing sites around," said sophomore legal communications major Michael Roy. "I now see how serious it is and I think it's a shame that this is crumbling down like it is," Roy said.

Roy, like many other Howard students, believes that sharing streaming videos online isn't illegal, and there is no copyright infringement

happening when watching their favorite movies online.

Freshman English major Sydney Thomas was "introduced" to watching movies and TV shows on the Internet when she came to Howard.

"I never did it in high school, but it's like when I came to college, it became the way to watch movies or shows that you missed during the week," Thomas said. "I think a lot of us get pulled into thinking that because it's streaming and technically 'sharing' it's not wrong, but it's wrong on someone's part."

Companies like Hulu, Watch-Movies and now even YouTube are being blamed for knowingly violating copyright laws just to make a quick buck.

Internal YouTube e-mails depict at least one of the company's founders as a video pirate and suggest the Web site's employees were more interested in getting rich quick than adhering to copyright laws.

Viacom Inc. alleges that YouTube allowed copyright-protected clips to appear on its Web site in its early days to attract a bigger audience. YouTube maintains it has always obeyed online copyright laws, which generally protect service providers from copyright claims as long as they didn't post the infringing material themselves and promptly remove it when notified about a violation.

However, in the newly released personal e-mails between YouTube co-founders, a different

motive is revealed.

In an e-mail sent on July 19, 2005, co-founder Steve Chen wrote to fellow co-founder Jawed Karim, "Jawed, please stop putting stolen videos on the site... We're going to have a tough time defending the fact that we're not liable for the copyrighted material on the site, because we didn't put it up when one of the co-founders is blatantly stealing content from other sites and trying to get everyone to see it," wrote Chen.

In an effort to defend these e-mails, in a statement after the documents were released, YouTube said Chen's e-mail was referring to some aviation videos that had been making the rounds on the Web. "The exchange has nothing to do with supposed piracy of media content," YouTube said in the statement.

In a second e-mail a little more than a week later on July 29, 2005, Chen advised the third co-founder Chad Hurley and Karim to "steal it!" in an apparent reference to an unidentified video clip, according to the court documents. After Hurley asked if he wanted to steal movies, Chen replied, "Haha ya. Or something."

The case between Viacom and Google is still being determined and Google hopes that a judge will be able to make a ruling without a trial.

With attention brought on the issue, the future of these Web sites that air television shows is in jeopardy.

This Just In.....

• **British Airways and the union representing cabin workers entered its third day of strike yesterday on its busiest day of operation. The airline was forced to cancel more than half of its 1,950 flights normally scheduled during the period of the strike. Analysts forecast the three-day walk-out could cost the airline more than the \$95 million.**

• **AT&T has just announced the upcoming availability of the Palm Pre Plus and Pixi Plus for \$149.99 and \$49.99, respectively.**

• **Several Los Angeles students were charged with hate crimes and defamation by the California Appeals Court after they left threatening and abusive messages on a fellow students Web site created to promote his singing and acting skills. The appellate court determined that the cyber bullying was not free speech and the students were not protected by First Amendment rights.**

• **In an official posting at 3:03 p.m. ET yesterday, Google announced it will no longer censor Google searches in China and allow Chinese users to use the Hong Kong based uncensored site.**

Information compiled by
Alexis K. Barnes, Business & Technology Editor

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ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT RECORDS

📖 General Registration 📖

Fall 2010

Bison Web, 9am to Midnight

Monday, March 22nd - Friday, April 2nd

| DAY | DATE | CLASSIFICATION* |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Monday | March 22 | Senior |
| Tuesday | March 23 | Junior |
| Wednesday | March 24 | Sophomore, Unclassified |
| Thursday | March 25 | Freshman |
| Friday | March 26 | Graduate |
| Saturday | March 27 | All Students (Excluding Law) |
| Sunday | March 28 | All Students (Excluding Law) |
| Monday | March 29 | 3rd Year Law, LLM All Students |
| Tuesday | March 30 | 2nd Year Law All Students |
| Wednesday | March 31 | 1st Year Law All Students |
| Thursday | April 1 | All Students |
| Friday | April 2 | All Students |

*If you are not sure of your official classification, please refer to HU BISON Web.

- ◆ Students are required to meet with their academic advisors for discussion and approval of proposed course selections before using BISON Web.
- ◆ Alternate PINs may be required for **some** students. Please check BISON Web.
- ◆ Alternate PINs are required for **all** students in the College of Arts & Sciences with 75 or more credit hours.
- ◆ Alternate PINs are required for **all** students in the Division of Fine Arts regardless of classification.
- ◆ Students should print their schedules from the Web in a campus computer center.
- ◆ Prospective Graduates are not eligible to register during General Registration.
- ◆ First deferred payment for Fall 2010 is due Thursday, July 1, 2010.
- ◆ Friday, April 9: Last Day to complete a Total Withdrawal from the University & Last Day to Withdraw from a course (Spring 2010).

Traveling All-Stars Make Stop At HU

BY STEPHEN KNOX
Contributing Writer

Living history was displayed in the Blackburn Center Forum on March 11. Mamie "Peanut" Johnson, Pedro Sierra and Ed Banks gave personal accounts of their Negro League careers.

Also on the panel was former Howard Assistant Baseball Coach Ron Harris. Writer Bijan Banes moderated the event.

Outside the room was a display full of posters, news clippings, equipment and other types of memorabilia. The panel was held in conjunction with the Howard production of "Bingo Long and the Traveling All-Stars."

The crowd in attendance varied from students in the production to people who used to watch these players at Griffith Stadium. According to Culturaltourismdc.org, the stadium was removed in 1965, and Howard University Hospital was built on the site in 1975.

There were also some little known facts presented during the panel. For one, Negro League baseball during its peak was the second most lucrative black business next to funeral homes.

Junior theatre arts major Echoe Malone went to the presentation for extra credit, but stayed because she recognized the significance of the event. "It was amazing to see those legends in one place," Malone said. "My brother is a baseball player and my dad played at the University of Oklahoma, so baseball is very big in my family."

In 2008, Major League Baseball had a draft of surviving Negro League players as if the players could still play.

The Washington Nationals picked Johnson in the first round. She had a great career with a 33-8 pitching record and a batting average between .263 and .268 for the Indianapolis Clowns.

Johnson said in South Carolina where she grew up, it was commonplace for the girls to play with the guys. "A lot of people have small minds, and don't think a woman can play baseball," Johnson said. "Baseball is for whoever wants to and can play."

Sierra also played for the Clowns and the Detroit Stars. As a black Latin player, he had a language and cultural barrier to deal with. He said the older players helped him out a lot. The Negro League players understood him and other Latin baseball players sympathized with him, because they had played in Cuba.

Sierra would like to see more attention paid to Negro League baseball. Specifically he



Satchel Page (pictured above) was just one of the many black baseball players who contributed to the legacy of the Negro Leagues along with the All-Stars in attendance.

would like to see classes taught on the subject.

"People need to remember

the sacrifices we made," Sierra said. "Once, we played in Chicago and

drove to play the next day in a cow

pasture in Wyoming. That all white audience gave us a standing ovation."

Banks played in the last few years Negro League baseball was popular for the Newark Eagles. He said at the time he didn't recognize the historical significance of the league.

"I was just trying to learn from the older players and be the best I could be," Banks said. "It is better that way, because I don't think now I would appreciate it as much. Baseball as a whole is a significant part of both American and black history."

Other topics included the old Howard baseball team that was historically a strong baseball program. Coached by former Washington Senators player Chuck Hinton, Howard beat such teams as Florida State University and the University of South Carolina.

Harris believes Howard no longer having the program, along with the Senators moving from D.C., helped contribute to the lack of interest in baseball among black youth. "We stayed competitive by recruiting locally," Harris said. "Now black children are not exposed to baseball at an early age and no longer play. That's not just here, it's happening nationally."

Outdoor Track Kicks Off



The Bison men's track and field team placed seventh in the 4 by 400 meter relay run at the Wake Forest Open this weekend. Benjamin Rosa placed ninth in the triple jump and Alexandria McKee was 10th in the long jump. The women were led by sophomore Jami Hardy who was the runner up for the 800m run and senior Landria Buckley who took seventh in the 400m hurdles.

Tennis Schedule

MARCH

Fri. 26 at Maryland Eastern Shore *
Princess Anne, Md. 1 PM 4-3 (0-0)

Sat. 27 Morgan State *
Washington, D.C. 1 PM 4-3 (0-0)

Sun. 28 George Washington (Banneker Courts)
Washington, D.C. 1 PM 4-3 (0-0)

Wed. 31 at George Mason
Fairfax, Va. 3 PM 4-3 (0-0)

APRIL

Fri. 2 at Delaware State *
Dover, Del. 1 PM 4-3 (0-0)

Sat. 3 Hampton *
Washington, D.C. 1 PM 4-3 (0-0)

Tue. 6 at Georgetown (McDonough Tennis Complex)
Washington, D.C. 2 PM 4-3 (0-0)

Sat. 10 Longwood
Washington, D.C. 1 PM 4-3 (0-0)

Fri. 16 at MEAC Championship
Raleigh, N.C. TBA 4-3 (0-0)

Sports Trivia!

What team won the 30th NCAA Men's Basketball Championship?

Search The Hilltop for the answer!

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

March 23, 1979

Larry Holmes TKOs Osvaldo Ocasio in round 7 for heavyweight boxing title.

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The Howard University Graduate Student Assembly Presents

The Howard University GSA Gala

Celebrating and Honoring Howard University Upgraders



Saturday evening, March 27, 2010

Reception at half past 6 o'clock

Dinner at half past 7 o'clock

Dancing at half past 9 o'clock

Hyatt Regency District of Columbia

400 New Jersey Ave, N.W.

Capital Ball Room

Ticket Price: \$30 each and \$50 per couple

Attire: Semi-Formal

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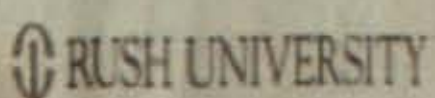
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Hilltop Budget Meetings
are Sundays at 6 pm in
the Howard Plaza Towers,
West.

For breaking news tips
or story ideas, email
hilltopmanager@gmail.com

Health Care Bill Will Have Impact on Students

continued from FRONT, HEALTH

a sophomore broadcast journalism major, thinks the Health Care Reform was very necessary and long overdue. In her opinion, health care should be a right, not an option. Ultimately 95 percent of Americans are estimated to have health coverage by 2019, as opposed to 83 percent today.

"Although some Republicans may not be happy at the final result, I'm glad that it's finally here," she said. "I have friends who I know that really can't afford health care, and to know that they [now] have health care, and I have health care, and we all have health care, really

brightens my day," she said.

Low-income Americans will be able to afford insurance thanks to premium caps and Medicaid extensions. Under the law, individuals who make \$16,425 or less annually and families who make between \$29,000-\$33,000 annually will have their insurance premium ceiling of four percent of their income, or \$1,320. The government would pay for the rest of the full cost of the standard premium. Out-of-pocket spending on insurance would be capped at 15 percent of income, but as income rises, so will the cap. Any citizen earning less than \$14,400 would be eligible for Medicaid starting Jan. 1,

2014.

"I feel a couple of concerns about it though, because everyone knows that it was passed, but it's still not completely going through and there was a lot of bipartisanship," said sophomore political science major Jordan Walker.

Concerned that Congress is focusing more on politics than what is beneficial for the country, Walker believes that the Republican Party may try to jeopardize the bill, or the amendments. Despite the concern over the primarily partisan nature of the bill, he recalled, "At the same time, Republicans weren't really offering solutions."

A companion bill will be

taken by the U.S. Senate as early as this afternoon, and will only require 50 votes instead of the usual 60 due to a process called reconciliation. This measure will amend Sunday's legislation, cutting some things and rejecting many political deals within that were made to achieve the 60 votes.

The bill includes \$108 billion in new fees for insurers, pharmaceutical corporations, and medical equipment makers. Families with annual incomes exceeding \$250,000 will pay higher Medicare payroll taxes. High-value insurance plans face a 40 percent excise tax beginning in 2018. Despite backlash from many

voters, the Congressional Budget Office estimates the budget deficit will actually decrease. The deficit is projected to be \$143 less in 10 years.

The passing of the legislation is viewed as a huge victory for President Obama, who staked his presidency on the reform effort and lost significant ground in public opinion polls as the process dragged on. With his current approval ratings remaining steady in the high-40s, Obama evoked memories of his highly successful campaign when he said, "This is what change looks like," in a televised address to the nation Sunday night.

THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE INDEPENDENT AUTHOR'S FAIR



MARCH 24TH 2010
4-6PM

THE PERFECT SHOE

Kimberly T. Matthews



TWISTED SISTERS AND DUMB BROTHERS

James Reedom



CUPID CROSSROADS

Jamaal-Ali Richardson



LIGHTS OUT, GAME OVA

Galuminatti



BRUISED KISSES

Monique M. McDowell



SOUNDS IN MY HEAD

Gretchen Lofland



MARCH 25TH 2010
5-7PM

LADY LESSONS

Shayna Rudd



HEAVEN & EARTH

J.M. Benjamin



COVETED

Marcy Patrick



THE SATISFYING TOUCH

Deanne Tee



WISDOM FOR THE SOUL OF BLACK FOLK

Larry Chang



FAT KILLS

Kirstin Reid



LOVE MADE ME CRAZY

Chuanda Mason



LIVING IN THE LIGHT

Susan Duncan



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For more information contact us at 202.238.2640 or check for more events at www.hubookstore.com

Check out The Hilltop Online for multimedia and breaking news!

Did you know?

Currently Happening in Hollywood

- Lady Gaga's ex-boyfriend Ron Fusari has filed a \$30.5 million lawsuit. Fusari, a songwriter and producer who co-wrote the hit "Paparazzi," claims that his former "protégé" bolted after her immense success. Fusari's suit also claims that he came up with the name "Lady Gaga."
- Keshia Chante will play Aaliyah in her biopic. Chante is a Canadian singer/songwriter/model/dancer who was been rumored to have dated Drake.
- Atlanta rapper and OutKast member Big Boi has recently announced the signing of his one-album deal with Def Jam Records.

- Information courtesy of Vibe.com and HoneyMag.com
Compiled by Sierra Jones,
Life & Style Editor

Do you have story requirements for class?

Do you like to write?

If so, e-mail Hilltopls@gmail.com

Make sure to come to budget meetings and pick up a story every Sunday in the West Towers P-17 at 6pm.

Professor Rating Web Site May Hinder Students' Learning Experiences

BY YETUNDE ALABI
Contributing Writer

The infamous www.rate-my-professors.com is a Web site where anonymous posts are compiled and professors at universities across the nation are given an overall rating.

Headlines flash across a blue screen reading: "Spring Break Acapulco," "Professor Top Lists" and a search bar with "Find a Professor," "Find Your School" and "rent your textbooks" is available for students 365 days a year. A green check mark is the logo students will see in their browser when they log on to this unusual search engine. Instead of using it to look up the latest fashion trends or gossip on celebrities, one can check out what others have to say about their professors.

Many consider the site a useful tool when registering for classes, but is this doing more harm than good? A recent Kaplan Test Prep survey of over 1,200 students and recent college graduates found that 45 percent were influenced to choose professors who were known for having an "easy grading reputation." This study corroborates with a similar study by Cornell University that found students search for classes with a higher median grade.

Aaron Fleming, a sophomore political science major, is new to Howard University, but frequents the site to check up on professors before he clicks the "register" button on his Bison Web account.

"I think rate-my-professors.com is a great tool for students when picking out a schedule. I use it all the time because when I'm already taking difficult classes, my hectic schedule can get in the way. In some cases, I use it to find the easiest teacher because it is better for my lifestyle as a student-athlete, but sometimes I'll challenge myself and take the harder teacher which makes learning more interesting."

Are most Howard students using the Web site to find the professor who does not take attendance regularly, assigns minimal homework and gives out A's to the majority of the class?

When making a decision between one professor and the next it is quite difficult, so in many cases, students turn to each other for advice. Of course, there are professors that are notorious for

not showing up to their scheduled classes on time, giving harsh grades with little feedback or can be extremely hard to understand in the classroom, plenty of professors provide the quality education Howard University has to offer.

Though it is hard to believe that there are some students who matriculate through Howard University without consulting the professor handbook, some consider the site a hindrance to student's educational gain in the end. Charles Perkins, a sophomore economics major, has never visited rate-my-professors.com and does not plan to in the near future.

"It think its hindering student's learning and putting them at a disadvantage because people develop from challenges. If you are not challenging yourself by finding easy professors, you cannot progress academically," he said.

Perkins added, "You are not maximizing your potential and taking full advantage of your intellectual experience. But on the other hand, the Web site can be used to find dynamic professors like Dr. [Greg] Carr who goes above and beyond to provide his students with as much information as possible."

Senior economics major Jared Gregory said, "I've used it several times and the reviews seemed to be pretty accurate." On behalf of his colleagues, Gregory stated, "Students are trying to get easy teachers because they don't want to put that much effort into classes, especially the ones that are irrelevant to their major, or refuse to put much time and effort into their class work."

Cristina DeBianchi, a senior physics major, said, "The Web-site is insightful but it should not be the main source of finding a good professor. Students should ask their peers for input and at least sit in the professor's lecture once before fully committing to any course."

These Web sites are available as a tool for students to double check their sources and find out if a professor's teaching style will be conducive to their learning, but it seems to be turning in to a phenomenon that can have a negative result. No matter what class, or professor you have, there are still ways to push yourself to learn as much as possible and emerge at the end of the semester a more knowledgeable student.



Photo Editor-Bree Gent
A university's credentials may be enough for some students to make decisions about attending without having visited the campus prior to their move-in day.

More Students Choose Schools Prior to Visiting

Selecting an institution at which to pursue higher education, for many students, may rest solely upon the school's legacy of developing quality leaders

BY TaJANIQUE NEAL
Contributing Writer

Choosing where to attend college is an extremely personal and quite stressful decision that students, as well as their families, have to make.

Generally, students tend to decide on the perfect school based on specific criteria including: location, campus size, tuition, athletics, majors offered, and/or scholarships and grants available. However, the legacy that the school holds can swindle the students' minds into attending the school solely for that purpose.

For some students, Howard University was the only school considered due to a family history of Howard alumni or the strong legacy for which Howard is known. Because of this, several students opted out of visiting the school. Senior chemical engineering major Farrah Steeley is one of the students that chose not to visit Howard before move-in day.

"I knew I wanted to major in engineering and I knew the engineering program at Howard created nothing but success," Steeley said. "It's the Mecca!"

Steeley chose Howard because of all the positive recommendations that were given to her. Even though she may not have known what she was getting herself into, Steeley's experience at Howard is one she doesn't regret.

"My learning experience has been based on networking rather than on a scholarly level," Steeley said. "I appreciate that because at the end of the day, Howard has taught me that it's definitely not about WHAT you

know, but WHO you know. And with that concept, I will be fine," she added.

Junior political science major Brittany Hamner is also a student that never visited Howard prior to move-in.

"I just felt in my heart that Howard was for me. I passed up other schools and scholarships and just came here on a prayer," Hamner said.

Hamner wants to attend law school at the University of California, Los Angeles or the University of Southern California, and might not visit beforehand.

"I just know Los Angeles is where I want to be," Hamner said.

Columbia University's Assistant Dean of Academic Success Programs, Sunday F. Coward, believes that it's a combination of specific needs for the students at Columbia University and doesn't recommend attending a school without visiting it.

"Students at Columbia consider the core curriculum, liberal art studies, engineering curriculum, faculty to student ratio, location, selectivity, costs, financial aid, and diversity; especially the selectivity being that it's an Ivy League school," Coward said.

For students planning on attending graduate or law school, visiting the school prior to attending could possibly be seen as more important than in undergraduate schools because you could ultimately end up living in that area after graduation. When attending graduate school, students are on a more "professional" level and you could possibly end up with a career right in that area.

Research Study at University College London Links Heart Disease, Death to be Symptoms of Boredom

BY DOMENIO SMITH
Contributing Writer

When someone says they are bored to death, do you really take the claim literally? According to research carried out by the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College London, you just might have to.

The study states that specialists from the department [of Epidemiology] looked at data from 7,524 civil servants between the ages of 35 and 55 during the period between 1985 and 1988. Those civil servants who said that they were bored were nearly 40 percent more likely to have died by the end of the study than those who said they were not. It was also found that there was sufficient evidence that there is a link between heart disease and boredom.

So, what is boredom? Dr. Ahmed Moen, associate professor in the Division of Allied Health Sciences at Howard University, who has done research on boredom, defines it as a state of mind where the person experiences self-depreciation.

Moen says boredom is not a disease, nor can it cause death. It can simply contribute to whatever sickness or illness you may already have. "To measure death rates through boredom may not be accurate. The people who happen to have heart disease after the study

may have simply died from heart disease [not boredom]," Moen said.

Although he agreed to some extent with the study from the University College London, he contends that it was a closed, controlled study.

"Its purpose was to measure the mortality rate of the population who claimed to be bored. It was limited to a certain age group and was not over a long enough period of time to be completely valid," Moen said.

So what are the causes of boredom? Experts agree that it's the lack of a challenge. Sometimes boredom could be the result of depression. If you're depressed, you usually lose interest in what you are doing. Depression interferes with your work, social and family life. Excess amounts of time can also result in boredom.

Some people have too much time on their hands.

"When I get bored I like to use that time to go over my 'to do' list and try to be more productive. Then I might try to see what I have to do tomorrow and get a head start on that," said senior nutritional science major Alisha Jones.

Boredom can also cause you to participate in events you normally wouldn't.

Royal Farley, a freshman sociology major, said, "When I get bored, the first thing I do is look



Photo Editor-Bree Gent
In an isolated study conducted by University College London, researchers found ample evidence supporting a link between heart disease and boredom.

through my contacts and see who I can kick it with for the time being. Depending on how bored I am, I may even hit up somebody I'm not even that cool with."

"In conclusion, boredom is extremely normal. Once you feel you are bored it will go away if you engage yourself," Moen said.

If you notice that you feel bored for an extended amount of time, you may need to talk to someone such as a friend, or loved one. Howard also provides counseling services at the Counseling Center in the C.B. Powell Building. So, if you're feeling bored, get out there and do something about it.



Photo Courtesy of Los Angeles Times

Has Immigration Reform Faded into the Background?

"Si se puede! Yes we can!" This weekend, the district was alive with organized chaos and chants, as thousands of illegal immigrants flooded downtown D.C. in an effort to protest the controversial legislation, resulting in the most significant recent outpouring of support of immigration legislation. Democratic state representative of Illinois, Luis Gutierrez, led the crowd in an inspirational speech, recalling the struggle of illegal immigrants all over the nation, as they attempt to gain legal American citizenry status.

Life as an illegal immigrant in the U.S. has recurring life shattering effects on countless people around the nation. The risk of indiscriminate and unexpected deportation is very real, and unfortunately, many illegal immigrants are deported abruptly and with no forewarning, resulting in a negative situation for not only themselves, but also their families.

Although it's understandable that illegal immigrants are motivated to work, learn and positively contribute to society, it's also understandable why so many

Americans support the seemingly "anti-immigration" legislation that's currently in place. Illegal immigrants don't pay taxes, but reap the benefits of American taxpayer dollars in the forms of education and surprisingly, even federal aid, whether it be in the form of welfare, public housing, etc.

Our View:

Immigration reform should be as important an issue as health care reform.

Something that people tend not to acknowledge however, is that illegal immigrants aren't necessarily "sneaking" into the states to "steal" our tax dollars, and often legitimately desire to serve as contributing members of society, taxes and all.

Unfortunately, immigration laws currently place illegal immigrants at outstanding odds in their attempts to gain American citizenship, as they attempt to become legal and contributing members of society. President Obama promised to address the issue in some capacity during his election

season, which obviously contributed to his popular vote. Immigration reform was a major issue during the presidential election, and has since fallen somewhat to the background in the face of other issues. This protest served as a means of holding President Obama accountable for promises he made before his election, although he's been instrumental in accomplishing a number of other highly debated goals, namely the huge feat of health care reform.

Although Obama's time in office has been relatively successful in terms of the progress he promised the nation, we believe a somewhat immediate decision should be reached on the future of American immigration. It's been an issue for a long time, and isn't going any place. Spending money on current efforts, such as border control, hasn't really been effective yet.

We know the president's a pretty busy guy, but are hopeful that he doesn't leave immigration reform on the back burner for too long, and finds the time to address one of the larger concerns of his constituency.

Perspective

The Future of Howard

For 143 years, Howard University has largely been identified as a comprehensive teaching university with an emphasis on its undergraduate programs, while producing a large number of PhD's and black professionals. There are plans being developed now that would change Howard into an institution that focuses heavily on research and innovation, while providing a quality undergraduate education.

A reduction in the number of undergraduate students? More graduate students? Academic Programs being cut? Tuition increases? Large changes in Faculty?

All of these changes are imminent at our university, and yet many students have no clue what's going on. Simply put, President Ribeau has decided that Howard University will place a greater emphasis on research, which has implications on every aspect of the university community, including:

Student Body - Currently, our student body is roughly 65% undergraduate and 35% graduate/professional. With the new emphasis on research, the new

alignment could be closer to 40% undergraduate and 60% graduate/professional. This could mean significant cuts in undergraduate enrollment, and increases in the research intensive graduate programs.

Faculty - Over 75% of Howard's tenured faculty are eligible for retirement. Last year, Howard offered a Voluntary Separation Program for staff members, and could soon offer a similar program to Faculty members. This could lead to a number of retirements, and subsequently, a large influx of new professors on the Hilltop.

Academic Programs - Howard currently has 181 programs, a large number compared to the amount of students enrolled. The President's Commission on Academic Renewal (PCAR) is in the process of reviewing EVERY program the university offers to determine if certain programs need to be cut, and analyzing the effectiveness of the programs we currently offer.

These are only a few highlights of a larger plan being discussed by PCAR. The President's goal is admirable, but the student's voice has been largely silent

in this very important discussion. There are a number of upcoming events that will give students the opportunity to learn more about the plan, discuss the future of Howard, and ultimately stake our claim in deciding which direction OUR university will take in the coming years. More information about PCAR is available on the Provost Web site available at Howard.edu

Want to get involved? On Wednesday, March 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the School of Business Auditorium, the Commission will host a meeting for Students and Faculty to discuss the implications of Academic Renewal, and will give students the opportunity to ask questions directly relating to the plan.

Howard needs you. Do you care about her future?

Marcus Ware,
School of Law
Juris Doctorate
Candidate 2012

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

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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

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

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

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Something to say?

Speak up.

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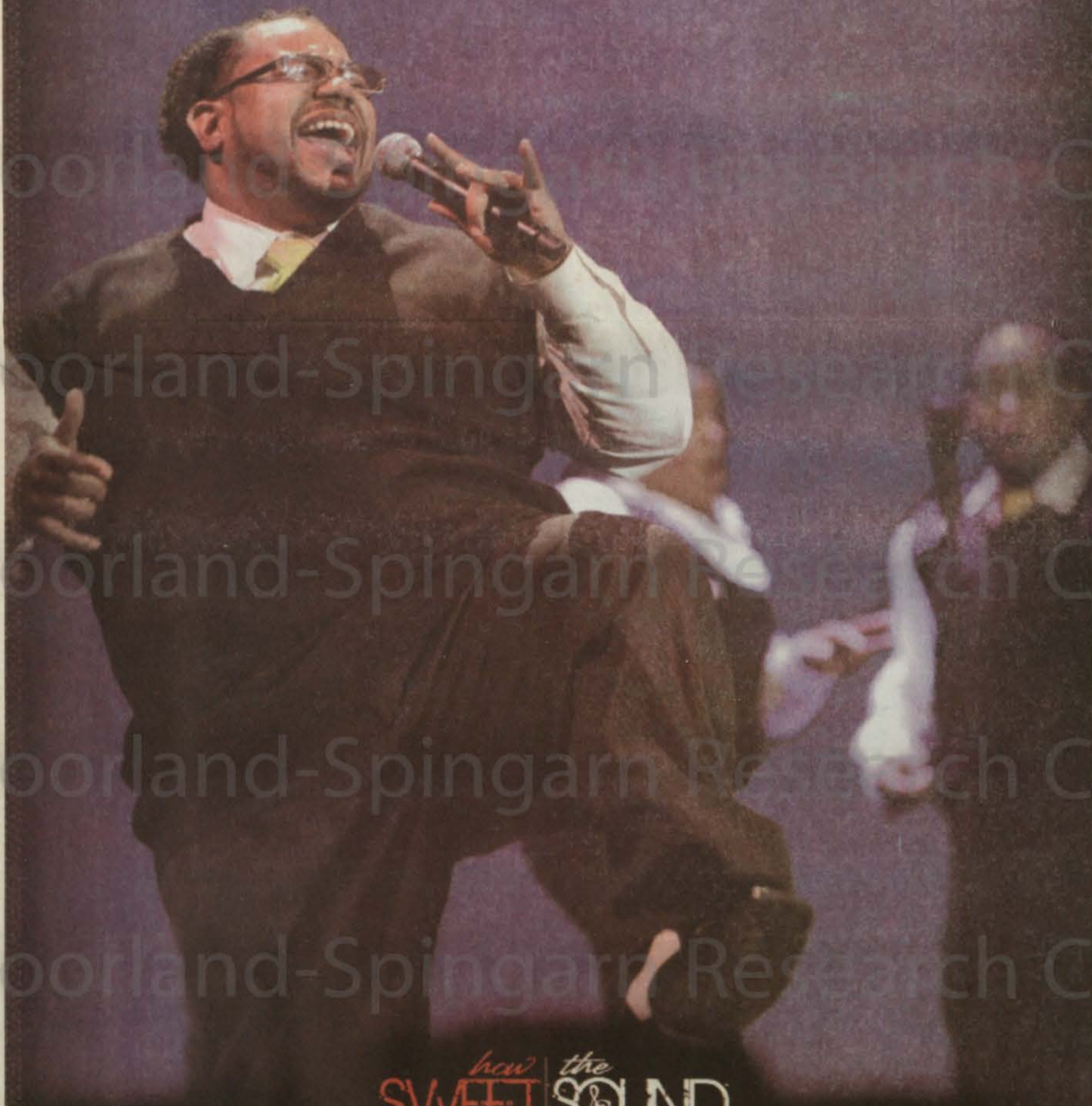
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