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The Hilltop 8-29-2006

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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 90, NO. 2

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

TUESDAY notebook

KATRINA VIGIL

TODAY AT NOON

HUSA WILL LEAD A VIGIL IN OBSERVANCE OF THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY HURRICANE KATRINA 12 NOON ON THE YARD BY THE FLAGPOLE

KATRINA ANNIVERSARY

PAPER-WIDE COVERAGE

LOOK FOR MORE COVERAGE OF THE EFFECTS OF HURRICANE KATRINA THROUGHOUT THE PAPER AS WE LOOK BACK ONE YEAR AGO.



TUES, 8/29:
SCATTERED
T-STORMS
HIGH: 90, LOW: 72

WED, 8/30:
PM
SHOWERS
HIGH: 79, LOW: 69

From The Bayou To The Bison

College victims of Hurricane Katrina tell their stories a year after an unexpectedly transferring to Howard.

Xavier Student Stays For More

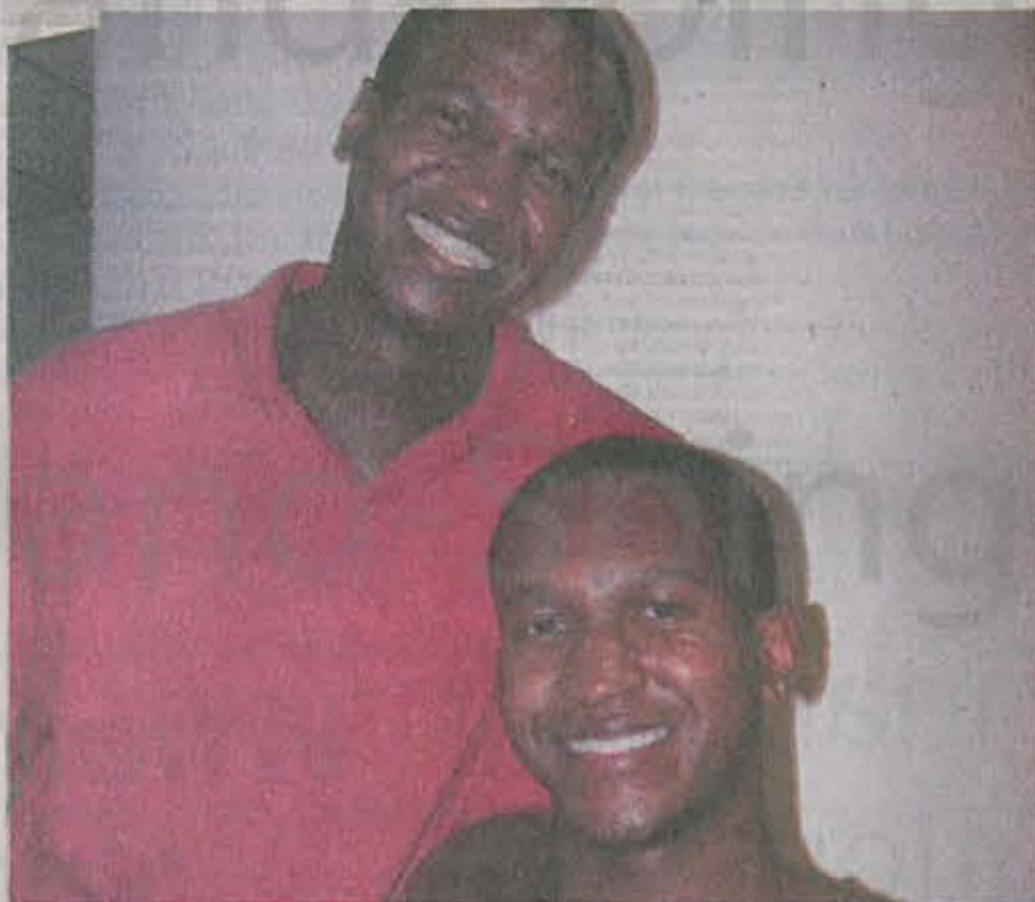
BY MATTHEW COOPER
Hilltop Staff Writer

Greg Allen, a junior pre-med student from St. Louis, Mo., was a student at Xavier University in New Orleans, La. last August. Enjoying his sophomore year in the Big Easy, Allen fit perfectly in the small school environment that Xavier students come to appreciate.

"It was like a big family, everybody helped each other," he reflects.

Allen ended up at Howard where his twin brother, Craig, was already attending school.

Greg, having been settled into Xavier, was not aware of the major change he would experience beginning on August 29, 2005.



Jessica Detiege - Staff Photographer

Craig Allen (left) has made his twin brother Greg (right) feel at home after Greg transferred to Howard one year ago.

"Because of New Orleans' history of dodging hurricanes, the school just left students with the option of leaving or staying," Allen said.

In the days leading up to Hurricane Katrina, Allen believes that the school had not adequately prepared for the damage caused by the catastrophe.

"All they did was leave

precautionary flyers under everyone's door," he said.

Allen says that many students took it upon themselves to evacuate the area before the storm hit. He, however, was not as lucky.

"I stayed at the home of an alumnus of the university, but we were fairly safe in

See **NEW BISON**, NEWS A2

Dillard Transfer Leaves Howard

BY MELISSA L. TYLER
Hilltop Staff Writer

Dissatisfied with Howard University's administration, biochemistry major Derrick Anderson left and went to the University of Nebraska after one semester - his second transfer since he started college.

Anderson had transferred to Howard from Dillard University after Hurricane Katrina left New Orleans in ruins.

Anderson had high expectations of what he thought his Howard experience would be, mostly from the Center of Excellence Summer Enrichment program that he attended in his younger years.



Photo courtesy of Derrick Anderson

After being dissatisfied with Howard's administration, Anderson transferred to the University of Nebraska.

Upon his arrival to Howard, Anderson planned to return to Dillard after the fall semester. Anderson wanted to graduate from Dillard, and was sure that the school would function as it once did by the next semester.

After one semester, New Orleans was still suffering from the hurricane. Anderson soon changed his mind about

returning to Dillard because he felt that the school was not ready to house students and provide the same education that he had previously received.

In order to accommodate returning Dillard students, Anderson was told that the school was having students

See **TEMP BISON**, NEWS A3

Doctor Chooses To Help Sick During Katrina Crisis



Derrell Smith - Senior Photo Editor

Gabou Mendy, a physician at New Orleans' Charity Hospital, stayed behind to help hurricane victims.

BY JANELLE JOLLEY
Metro Editor

Two part series of a physician on the front line during Katrina, reliving the frustration of emergency and shock of relocation a year later.

Gabou Mendy, a physician at New Orleans' Charity Hospital, anticipated the same routine that every New Orleans hurricane brought: tending to patients and waiting to spring into action should an emergency develop.

According to Mendy, hurricanes in New Orleans were, "just something you lived with."

On Monday, August 29, 2005, Mendy and the rest of New Orleans were forced to deal with not just any old hurricane; Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast to become the worst natural disaster in the history of the United States.

As the storm approached,

everyone in the Big Easy was told to evacuate.

For Mendy, a member of the emergency activation team at Charity Hospital, it was time to go to work.

While his family, including his wife Greer, was leaving the area, Mendy and other doctors headed toward the hospital that Sunday, the day before the storm hit.

Things ran as usual that day. New Orleans residents came to Charity seeking refuge from the storm, while the hospital's current patients were being cared for.

Shortly after the storm made land fall on Monday, the flood waters began to rise.

The cafeteria, located in the hospital's basement, flooded that afternoon leaving the food supply in jeopardy. To make matters worse, the hospital lost all electrical power including the back up generator.

The medical staff had to begin rotating the responsibility of caring for some patients by hand. Patients who were on ventilators now had to be bagged manually for oxygen, and EKG machines that shut off were replaced with stethoscopes.

"The professionalism of our staff became important to our patients," Mendy said.

The air conditioning stopped running along with the electricity, as the thick, bayou heat built within the hospital walls. With flood waters rising, the emergency room was no longer able to house patients for care.

All the while those seeking refuge continued to pour into the hospital amidst the chaos.

Mendy and the hospital staff worked through Monday night to move patients to a makeshift emergency room in the auditorium on the second floor.

"We were supposed to work 12 hour shifts, but you just

couldn't sleep," Mendy said.

When not on duty, Mendy was busy trying to contact his wife who left for DC in a caravan of 11 people, including two of their daughters and their grandson. Mendy's cell phone was working intermittently, and was able to receive text messages, but not able to send them out. There were long periods of time when Mendy had no way to communicate with his family to let them know he was still alive.

Tuesday, August 30, as Charity Hospital began turning people away, the word at Charity received word of an evacuation plan, which was a relief for Mendy since he had never known the public hospital, which opened in 1736, to close its doors to anyone.

Hospital staff began to prepare the patients that were most ill for an air lift evacuation to the

See **KATRINA**, METRO A4

Burr Gymnasium Gets New Basketball Court Floors

BY ELLIOTT JONES
Sports Editor

Ever since his arrival this past January, Howard University Athletic Director Dwight Datcher has continually said that changes would be made to the school's athletics program, from resources to facilities to, eventually, on-the-field results.

As promised, the first of such changes is currently in the process of being delivered, with construction beginning earlier this summer on a new basketball court in Burr Gymnasium.

"There is still a long way to go, but we are in the beginning stages of change," Datcher said. The project will cost over \$100,000 and is expected to

be completed by September 12, according to Datcher. Those within the athletics department believe that this renovation is the first of many on the horizon.

"Things are definitely headed in the right direction," said Associate Athletic Director Kevin Crittendon, who just joined Howard's staff in June after working in athletics at Georgetown University. "There are quite a few things that need to be taken care of, but with the condition of the old basketball court, this was a project that was well overdue."

The old floor was the original court that was laid down when Burr Gymnasium was built in 1963. The consensus was clear among university

officials that a change had to be made.

"Actually, this plan was well in the works even before I arrived here," Datcher said. "Just because it happened under my watch, I don't intend to take full credit for it."

Datcher also emphasized the fact that contributions from many different campus organizations and departments went into the decision to put in a new court.

"Purchasing, procurement, the General Council were all involved in the process," Datcher said. "Because it was probably the oldest project, it took a lot of people to help make the decision."

Looking to future projects, Datcher mentioned the Greene Stadium surface and press box,

the athletics website and the ability to stream games live off the internet, and other aspects of Burr.

"We are looking into more renovations, but not a total overhaul of Burr because it is vital to intramural sports and the Health, Human Performance & Leisure Studies classrooms," Datcher said.

The other roadblock standing in the way of further renovations, Datcher said, is funding.

"Most of our projects will try to involve alumni and friends and neighbors of the university to help fit the bill. We can't expect the university to make every change," Datcher said.

As for the \$100,000-plus price tag of his first large-scale



Jessica Detiege - Staff Photographer

Construction for the new basketball court, totalling more than \$100,000, is planned to be complete by next month.

project, Datcher said the high cost is well worth the reward provided by the final product. "The cost of getting it done and getting it done on time

may be high, but the usage of the floor by students, alumni, and friends along with the pride gained by having the new floor, is immeasurable."

HU Student Leaders Make Fall Preparation a Priority

BY MELISSA L. TYLER
Hilltop Staff Writer

Securing housing, finding employment, and obtaining financial aid constitute the bulk of first time and continuing students' annual college preparation. For students like Jennifer Owens, however, "back-to-school" goes beyond academics.

Owens, who is serving as the president of the Howard University Student Association, spent most of her summer performing student duties as having lunch with University President H. Patrick Swygert, giving a speech at the Feminist Majority Foundation, meeting with academic officials, and making plans for a revamped office.

Members of organizations, including HUSA, the Bison Cheerleaders and Campus Pals returned to campus more than two weeks before the academic school year officially started to prepare for school.

"I like to get work done early," said Owens, about the summer she has spent at Howard preparing for the official 2006-2007 school year.

Owens is part of a growing number of Howard students who do not take summer preparation lightly.

Although some student volunteers helped the HUSA office run smoothly, Owens has the responsibility of preparing for her individual academic year, as well as making sure that HUSA is organized and ready to serve the Howard community for the year.

"Everything I've been doing is student government work," she said. "Initially, I came ready to prepare for the upcoming school year, but I ended up having to tie up a lot of loose ends."



HUSA President Jennifer Owens, like other student leaders, spent her summer planning for the new school year.

Owens planned for the student government retreat and organizational planning, while holding a second job working with DC public schools.

But the importance of organization preparation remains high on her list because, as she says, "Everything requires planning."

Howard students can anticipate some new and traditional programs from HUSA this year. Owens, under her 'ON' platform plans to better include graduate students in HUSA events and activities. The student government will also continue First Fridays and 'HUSA in Your House.'

Like Owens, Campus President Nakiya Lee chose to stay at Howard during the summer in order to prepare for Freshman Orientation Week, in which the organization plans events that help incoming freshmen become acclimated to the University.

Lee and the Pals' executive board spent most of their summer putting together proposals, networking and contracting different companies to sponsor Campus Pals events.

"Our goal is not to spend money, but to make money," she said.

Lee said remaining in the District improved the preparation process.

"I found it beneficial to conduct interviews with sponsors in person versus on the phone or by e-mail at home."

This year, the Pals sold over a 100 more Campus Pal Pack tickets than usual during freshman orientation because of the summer planning.

Students can expect a winter ball, programs cosponsored by the Campus and International Pals, and two activities per month from Campus Pals this 2006-2007 year.

"I am excited for what's to come," Lee said. "This will be a good year."

Students Voice Issues With Financial Aid Office; Staff Offers Solutions

BY JOUANNA SPANN
Hilltop Staff Writer

From the scenes outside of freshmen week parties to the bookstore, many Howard students find themselves in long lines at the beginning of the year.

The Office of Financial Aid, which serves the 60 percent of Howard students receiving need-based financial aid, is one of the busiest offices at Howard during the beginning of the year.

The Financial Aid office serves any Howard student that receives financial aid. It is employed on campus or receives scholarships.

The 'hustle and bustle' of the financial aid office at the beginning of the year often affects many students' schedules.

"Going to financial aid and waiting forever has impacted my schedule by causing me to miss class, get aggravated and cause me to think irrational thoughts," said Chancelyn Walker, a senior health management major.

Janetta Freeman, a sophomore anthropology major, said that communication is one of the problems that the financial aid office suffers from.

"They don't know what to do and they expect us to know what to do when we get there," Freeman said.

"The students aren't being informed of the necessary procedures in an appropriate time."

The wait time for service has been a problem in the past for junior electrical engineering major Michael Ponder, particularly because he plays football.

"We have an hour or two between practices and meetings to get any problems fixed as far as validation and financial aid," he said.

The longer wait time can be a problem for some students, but according to Steven L. Johnson, Director of the Office of Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Student Employment, the wait time student experience is not out of the ordinary.

"Students awaiting assistance from the office of Financial Aid do not experience a longer wait time than any other campus office," said Johnson, who also said the wait time can be attributed to students' with unique and personal circumstances.

"Some students may spend more time with a financial aid representative to ask additional questions unique to their personal circumstances or to gain a better understanding of the financial aid process," Johnson said.

Some of the issues Freeman said the office should improve include making sure the financial aid staff provides clearer information in a timelier manner.

"[The staff] provide student, faculty, and staff, with clear, accurate, concise, and recorded information, in an appropriate and well projected time," Freeman said.

Johnson suggested some similar solutions for decreasing the wait time it takes to get service in the Financial Aid office. He said students should not wait until the last minute and continuously check their account on BisonWeb to ensure that the university has accurate local and permanent



Tia Chase, a junior health management/biology double major, fills out her loan authorization form to become validated.

contact information.

Johnson said one of the largest problems the office encounters is incomplete paperwork from students.

"They do not submit complete documents and do not read important financial aid notices regarding processes and deadlines," Johnson said.

As much as students are

seeing the problems with the Financial Aid office, some students are taking matters into their own hands and trying to lower the wait time themselves like Ponder.

"I make sure I have all my documents in order and I call ahead to ask what things I need. I try to be more organized."

Katrina Transfer Makes Howard Home

GREG, from Campus A1

Jefferson Parish, which only got minor street flooding."

After the storm, Greg migrated to Houston, Texas to stay with family, leaving behind all his belongings at his dorm at Xavier. "They weren't letting anyone into the city," he said.

Greg soon decided that it was best to join his identical twin brother Craig, at Howard, and that made for a smooth transition.

"Everybody was pretty helpful, once they found out I wasn't my brother," Greg said.

Greg showed up in DC with hardly anything to his name. He only had four arti-

cles of clothing that he was able to bring with him.

Greg had to buy a whole new wardrobe, as well as essential toiletries. He used a \$1,800 stipend given by Howard University, as well as some donations from WHUR-FM to gather essentials such as underwear, socks, and deodorant.

Greg, like other students affected by Katrina, was also granted remission of tuition for two semesters to ease the financial and emotional stress caused by the relocation.

Greg was able to revisit New Orleans over the summer, and discovered first-hand that the city he loved so much, would not return to its lively state for a long time.

"It's a lot quieter, like a

ghost town," Allen said. "There wasn't much going on."

Greg, like many other Katrina evacuees, was also unable to recover many of his belongings left at school.

"Most of my stuff was stolen. My computer was stolen, one of my watches, and my roommate's stereo speakers. The area was flooded, and only FEMA had access to the dorms," he said.

Greg Allen decided to remain at Howard University, not only because most of his friends would not be returning to Xavier, but mostly to join his brother, Craig.

The city of New Orleans still remains in his heart.

"I miss the atmosphere. It was so fun being with my friends. Everybody is so ani-

mated," he said.

"People greet you with a smile on their face. It is just more outgoing; it's like polar opposites from the East Coast."

Greg does enjoy certain aspects of Howard, though. "There are a lot more things going on and more to offer in terms of campus life."

Greg's brother feels that the rebuilding process for Xavier, as well as the rest of New Orleans will take awhile to be complete.

"It will take a few years for Xavier to bounce back, but it will be much longer for New Orleans," he said.

Despite the hardships and obstacles in his way, Greg weathered the storm with ease.

What's In A Name?

A Look at The Namesakes of Howard University



Mordecai Wyatt Johnson

All students enrolled at Howard, regardless of major, must go through the administration building to process financial endeavors. The administration building is increasingly busy at the beginning of each semester with students paying tuition fees, securing financial aid, obtaining loans and filing student verification forms.

Built in 1957, the Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Administration Building houses Student Enrollment Management, Financial Services, as well as the offices of the President, Provost, and Chief Academic Officer.

The administration building is named after Mordecai Wyatt Johnson, the first African-American president of Howard, who served from 1926 to 1960. He was an educator, lecturer, religious worker, reformer and a businessman.

Born on January 12, 1890, in Paris, Tenn., to a hard working former slave father and a calm and patient mother, Johnson learned self-determination and discipline from his parents. The Encyclopedia of African-American Heritage mentions the deep-seated impressions that Johnson's parents made in the molding and development of him.

Wyatt was Johnson's first name and his mother, Carolyn, chose Mordecai as his middle name because she believed her son to be destined for great things and thought that he would be strongly associated with the welfare of his people and a life long mission of speaking peace to all people, like that of the biblical Mordecai.

Johnson received his early education at the

Academy of Roger Williams University in Nashville, Tenn. and Howe Institute in Memphis, Tenn. He graduated from the Preparatory Department of Atlanta Baptist College, now Morehouse College, in 1911, and later taught English, history and economics at the college until 1913.

Known as an articulate orator, Johnson delivered the commencement speech at his Harvard University Divinity School graduation in 1922, entitled "The Faith of the American Negro". Six years later, he received his Doctor of Divinity degree from Gammon Theological Seminary in 1928.

Author Richard McKinney writes that Johnson was credited for successfully strengthening the academic program at Howard and increasing enrollment in "Mordecai: The Man and His Message."

Howard faculty tripled, salaries doubled and Congressional appropriations increased to \$6,000,000 annually during Johnson's period in office according to Susan Altman's Encyclopedia of African-American Heritage. Altman notes Johnson's greatest contribution as the development of the Howard Law School into the top source of civil rights attorneys and law professors.

Johnson died in September 1976, but the administration building named for him carries his legacy, as younger generations of leaders walk through its halls.

- Compiled by Melissa L. Tyler - Hilltop Staff Writer

Physician Relocates to District After Katrina

KATRINA, from News A1

Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport that was to take place on Wednesday.

Through all the uncertainty and stress of this ordeal, Mendy kept a journal. He wanted to record the "naked emotions" wrought out of him and his colleagues.

As Wednesday approached, Mendy was anxiously awaiting the evacuation plan to be executed. The air lift transporting all other persons to more secure locations via National Guard trucks, did not happen.

Instead, National Guard trucks arrived in such small numbers that they were almost rendered obsolete, and there were no helicop-

ters.

Rumors circulated through the hospital about why the proper support had not come.

"I was feeling the frustration of not knowing or getting answers," Mendy said.

Later in the day, everyone in the hospital discovered, by a chance listening to the radio, that the evacuation for Charity didn't take place Wednesday on account of the reports of crime throughout New Orleans.

By Thursday, it had been five days since Mendy reported for activation duty. He had not spoken to his wife since Tuesday, and was in tight quarters with people who had not had access to a shower since Monday.

Mendy could have left

Charity at any point and time. His presence along with the other physicians on the activation team was totally voluntary.

But he felt an obligation to the survival of his patients.

"Through it all, we were focusing on our duties and responsibilities," Mendy said, "We gave them their needs."

As dedicated as he was, hopelessness and sorrow began to set in for Mendy by Thursday morning. For days, he had watched as evacuees were turned away from Charity, and being turned away from the Super Dome and left to wait for help standing along the highways from the hospital windows.

"I felt abandoned," Mendy said, "Tulane Hospital, which is right next door, had been totally evacuated on Wednesday. And here it is, Thursday morning, and we had only experienced 'trickling evacuations'."

Little did he know that hope was finally on the way.

First responders and citizens began showing up at Charity in boats Thursday afternoon. They began to take the people from Charity to a staging area on Loyola



Derrell Smith - Senior Photo Editor

Gabou Mendy (center), a physician from New Orleans's Charity Hospital, and his niece (left) and son (right) relocated to the District after Mendy stayed to help.

Avenue, the first of two staging areas on the way to the airport.

Mendy was told that a helicopter would meet him, one of his colleagues, and whatever patients they brought with them in the middle of the interstate at the second staging area.

When a group from

Texas Wildlife and Fisheries dropped them off at Causeway Boulevard and I-10, the second staging area, Mendy wasn't prepared for what he saw next.

"The patients who had been evacuated before me, even the previous day before me, were just left on the interstate!" Mendy said, "And peo-

ple who recognized me from the hospital came and asked me, 'Doc are you leaving us here to die?'"

The next thing he knew, his original group of one doctor and 10 patients grew to almost 30 people.

Check out Metro Thursday for Part Two.

"Coming back to Charity was like heaven and hell. I don't know which one."

- Gabou Mendy, emergency activation team member

Look to the Arts: A Community Builder

BY CHARLOTTE YOUNG
Hilltop Staff Writer

Sylvia Robinson has a vision: to help reestablish and enforce the bonds of community in the DC area.

A community torn apart by a history of poverty, violence, restlessness and politics, she believes could be restored with the universal builder known as the arts.

With that in mind, the Emergence Community Arts Collective (ECAC), was started in 733 Euclid St. NW, and is in its first year of operation.

The ECAC building stands out as a light in the community not only because of what it is doing now, but because of the past it shares with the people of DC as well.

It was owned by the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children since 1863. In the 1950s, it was the Meriwether Home for Women and Children and from 1927-1999 it became Key Day Care Center. When the Center went under, the building was left to deteriorate

until Robinson bought it, and once again gave a helping hand to the community.

The large three-story building is also what Robinson has called home since she bought the abandoned place in 2003.

The ECAC operates by renting out rooms to various groups of her choice that incorporate the physical and healing arts.

"The ECAC having space is important as new development continues," Robinson said. "It can be for the community and affordable."

On any given Saturday morning, the wild and rhythmic beat of drums and bells can be heard dancing through the front room of the ECAC as participants bring back the ancient Afro-Brazilian martial art form known as Capoeira Angola.

In another room people can be found relaxing in the healing art of Kundalini Yoga, a science that increases blood circulation, strength, energy and flexibility.

Though she has only been renting since June, yoga instructor Shelly Green is very content with her choice

to hold her classes in the ECAC.

"I liked the area close to Howard University, I liked the fact that it was a community based program—especially the African American community," Green said.

Of the groups that rent rooms, Capoeira Angola and the Copper Ware School are two of the most attended.

Another 'popular' group has been the people that meet for open mikes on Monday nights and the DC slam on Sunday.

"That's been a positive project," Robinson said. "It involves young people and it's a way of getting young people to communicate."

Even with all of her work Robinson takes time out to sit in on the open mikes, teach tai chi and get involved with the yoga classes.

Though the ECAC is busy making a difference in its community, Robinson is always looking for volunteers to further the progress of the community center. In return, volunteers receive coupons for classes.

"A lot of Howard students have come to volunteer

[such as] HU Jumpstart. One of the young guys that comes to the open mike brought his group also," Robinson said. Students also come from other universities such as Bowie State University and American University.

Howard students have also put on a play and an art show at the ECAC.

Because this is the ECAC's first year running it has not yet had the chance to reach out to students at Banneker High School located across the street. It is an upcoming goal for the center as well as seeing Howard University becoming even more active in community affairs.

"It seems that Howard is in its own world and then there's the community. I'd like to see more interaction between Howard and the community. And I think the ECAC could help with that," Robinson said.

First as an aid to destitute black women and children, then a day care center and now a community arts center, the building on Euclid street stands as a symbol for the strength of the community.



Charlotte Young - Hilltop Staff Writer

Howard Solomon, a member of Tri Flava, plays drum during open mic night every Monday night at Emergence Community Art Collective in the District.

The New Face of Student Living

BY CHARLOTTE YOUNG
Hilltop Staff Writer

For some, it's a god-send, the answer to a prayer. It's a melting pot, bringing together people from near and far, of all races, creeds and ages ranging from 18-40.

It's Prince George's County's University Towers.

The University Towers is a 910 bed student housing facility that is part of a \$1.2 billion dollar development in Hyattsville, MD called the University Town Center (UTC).

On Friday August 11th it opened and became the new home to college students from all around the area. The dorms come fully furnished with a full kitchen, appliances, a washer and dryer, a dining room table and leather furniture

in the living room. Each student also has a private bedroom and bath. Among the other luxuries the Towers at UTC offer are: a full gym, rooftop pool and a game room with two 92-inch projection screen TVs and 13 32 inch flat screen TVs.

"Rent starts at \$695-\$795. It is within a reasonable price—everything is included," leasing manager Leah Lawrence said. Students can also use financial aid and grants to pay their rent.

With all of these extra perks, students from all around the DC area flock to live together in the University Towers.

The University of Maryland encompasses 39% of the entire student population with Howard University at a close second with 37%.

"[It's] more like being in a dorm—you're around students all the time," said Kelly Flannagan, a senior kinesiology major at University of Maryland.

Though the University Tower's may sound like a dream, some students may wonder about the accessibility of its location to the various schools around the area.

"The thing about it is, it's conveniently located by the metro station so getting to school is not as big as a problem if I don't feel like driving my car," Shani Scott, a junior biology major at Howard said.

Even with its close proximity to the Prince George's County metro station, Scott also realizes it is not quite as convenient as being able to walk to campus.

"You'll have to add in

a metro budget or get a car, but once you get over that, you're straight," she said.

Kristin Mulligan, who is working on her master's in international affairs at George Washington University, said "it definitely is in a nice area with the shopping really close."

"I didn't want to bring my car out here or buy a car," she said. "I can use the metro."

Catholic University and the University of Maryland also charter shuttle buses that make their way to and from the University Towers.

A different view of college life, the University Towers offers all the luxuries a student could ask for whether it's a quick trip on the green line to the Shaw Howard stop or a shuttle bus ride away.



Atrice Williams - Staff Photographer

A brand new 16-floor apartment complex for students is located near Prince George's Plaza in Hyattsville, Md. University Towers houses an increasing number of Howard students off campus.

**“EVEN MY GRANDMA
READS THE HILLTOP.”**

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The Budget Meeting Is **NOT** on Tuesday.

In order to allot our contributing writers with more time to research and write their stories, Budget Meetings for The Hilltop will be held every Monday at 7 p.m.

The next Budget Meeting will be
Monday, Sept. 1.

Come out and get stories for your class requirements or for your personal enjoyment.

**Come one,
Come All!**

click it to us.

The Hilltop wants to read what you have to say. Submit a 500 word perspective to www.thehilltoponline.com.

When Sports Take a Backseat: Richardson Uses Time Off to Set Focus on Family, Friends, Hurricane Katrina

BY CARYN GRANT
Sports Editor

While the class of 2009 settled into their dorms, attended Freshmen Week events and began their journey at Howard University last fall, one member of the Bison track and field team had bigger concerns on her mind.

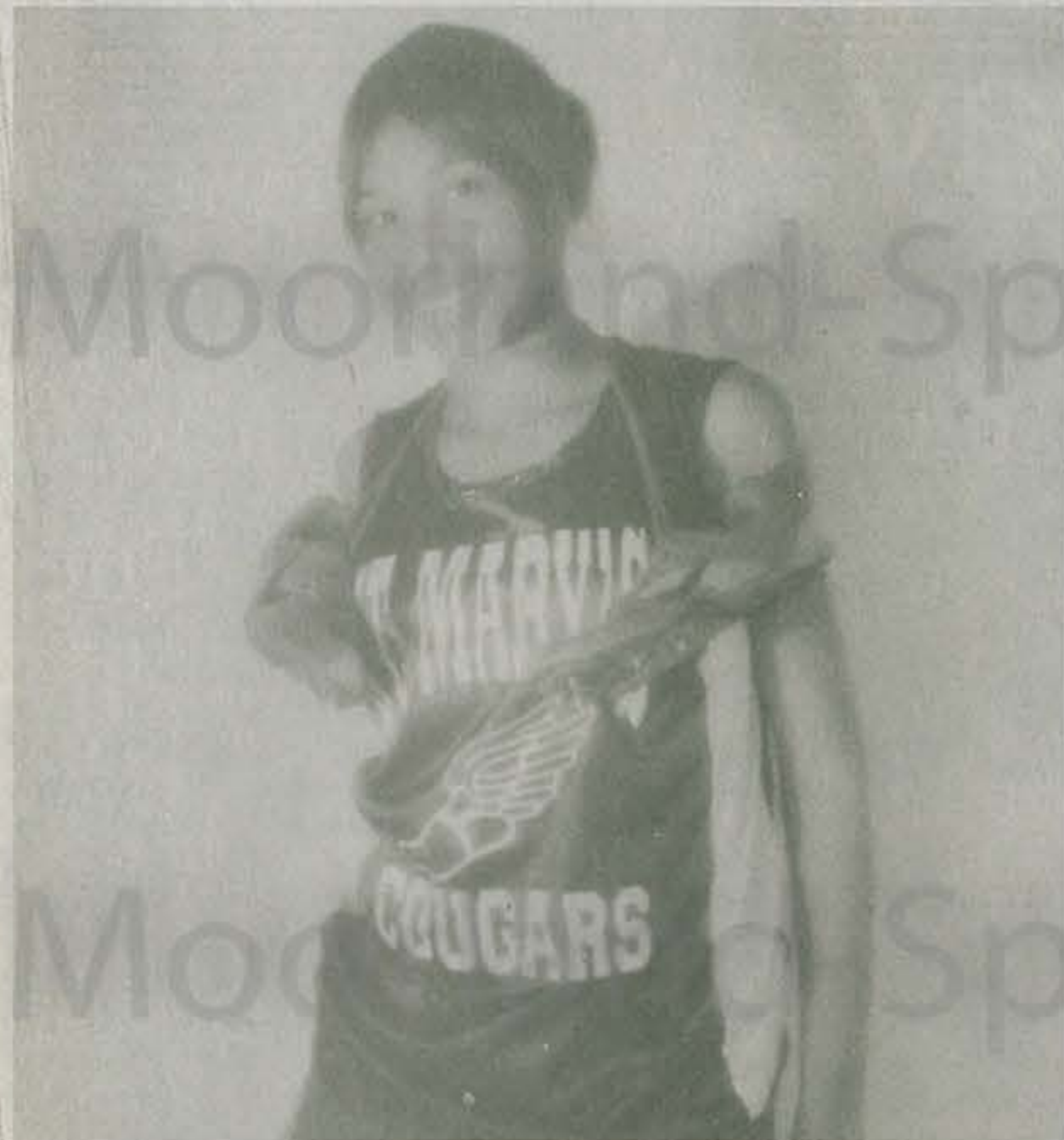


Photo courtesy of Alison Richardson

Runner Alison Richardson struggled to cope with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina as a freshman year last year. The New Orleans native will compete in her first season as a Bison this year.

Alison Richardson, a native of New Orleans, sat in her room and worried about the events taking place back home during her first weeks as a Bison.

"When we left [to come to Howard] they were talking about the storm coming," she recalls. On Aug. 29, 2005, the first official day of her freshman year, Alison's world changed forever as Hurricane Katrina

"I went through different stages of anger, sadness and revenge. I just had to give it up, do it for God and be blessed."

- Richardson, '09

hit the Gulf Coast and the city she was born and raised in began to flood.

"Classes came down the list [of priorities] when everything happened," she said.

A biology major, Alison failed a necessary chemistry class because she hadn't registered for the required lab.

"I had never failed any science," Alison said.

The happenings at home were seriously affecting her academic performance.

"My cousins were telling me about the storm and how fast the storm came in," she recalls. "I would get text messages in the middle of the night from friends that were still down there. I was just really depressed."

"I was just worried about trying to get a hold of people and help any way I could," she said.

A few close friends and teammates helped Alison get through the hard times, even though they couldn't relate to her situation.

Her friends would make sure that she went to the Cafe to eat and her teammates got her a birthday cake.

"Coming from home I didn't trust

a lot of people...that made me feel so special."

Her struggle was to get on a daily routine, so not to slip into a deep depression.

"I was really homesick," she says. "People don't understand that we lost everything. Our whole city...everything we know."

When she was sidelined for the entire season with shin splints and tendonitis, what was initially seen as a setback, ended up being a blessing for Alison.

"If I would have run, that would have taken my mind off of everything, and I think that would have been bad," she explains. "I wouldn't have been able to think things through, and holding that in is like cancer."

To keep a personal connection to home, Alison cooked and sold plates to make side money.

Her Christian upbringing also played a major role in how she dealt with the circumstances that faced her after the hurricane.

"Faith is the only thing that got me through this," she says.

"I went through different stages of anger, sadness and revenge. I just had to give it up, do it for God and be

SCOREBOARD & SCHEDULE

SCORES

Women's Soccer

Monday
Charleston Southern 5
Howard 1

TODAY'S GAMES

None

blessed."

"Everything happens for a reason," Alison said. "This is preparing us for something bigger. But what could be worse than this?"

Alison's family has relocated to Richmond, Va., but she says she can't bring herself to call the new residence home.

"My parents say that, 'home is where the heart is,' but my heart is in New Orleans," she says.

She has returned home a few times since Katrina's wrath.

"It's like having a relative that you always saw as strong, and then seeing them in the hospital," she explained. "Going back, I feel a little better and it's getting better, but they [the government] still aren't doing what they need to."

With this year's hurricane season looming, last year's happenings have made Alison stronger and given her a new outlook on her time at Howard.

"I hated Howard last year," she says. "I'm excited to be here this year. My whole state of mind is just different."

"God obviously put me here for a reason, so I'm going to do it and make a name for myself," she said.

Around the MEAC

MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE



Bethune Cookman Hires New Softball Coach

Bethune-Cookman College hired Chris Cochran as the new head softball coach for the Wildcats.

Cochran comes to BCC after serving as an assistant coach for Rutgers University's softball program in 2006.

She is set to take over the position immediately from Willie Brown, who served as interim head coach last season.



SC State Alum, Porche, Joins Sports Commission

Former South Carolina State player Robert Porche, who went on to a career in the NFL, was named chairman of the Detroit Metro Sports Commission.

While at SC State, Porche earned All-MEAC and All-America honors, as well as both MEAC Defensive Player of the Year and I-AA Defensive Player of the year by the NFL Draft Report in 1991.

Performance Enhancing Drugs Mar Track World

BY JULIANNE HANCKEL
Hilltop Staff Writer

Track stars Marion Jones and Justin Gatlin have been the talk of the track and field world because of the recent accusations and rulings of positive, performance enhancing drug use.

This past June, Marion Jones failed an initial drug test at the U.S. Track and Field Championships when her first sample drug test showed signs of EPO (Erythropoietin), a performance enhancer that boosts endurance.

According to Sports Illustrated, Jones is the third elite U.S. athlete to fail a doping test this year. The others were U.S. cyclist Floyd Landis, who tested positive for elevated testosterone levels during the Tour de France, and track and field sprinter Justin Gatlin who tested positive for steroid use on April 22 and agreed last week to an eight-year suspension from athletics and to forfeit the 100-meter world record he tied earlier this year.

The issue of performance enhancing drugs is also a major issue in collegiate sports.

Howard track and field coach Michael Merritt has been coaching Division I track for 18 years, and has been coaching at Howard for six years. He strongly believes that performance enhancing drug use is a worldwide problem and that it makes the whole sport of track and field look bad.

"They [athletes] are not competing with natural ability. It's blatant cheating," Merritt said. "I understand that they want the upper edge and that they want to set world records,

but they need to do it the natural way."

Howard tests all student athletes for EPO and steroids by mandatory, random testing according to NCAA policies. If there is a positive test result, the athlete is suspended from the sport and will have to undergo an investigation by the NCAA in order to continue their eligibility.

There are no current issues with any positive drug test results at Howard, Merritt said.

"We do not have that type of student here at Howard," he said. "They understand the risk factors, and I do not think any of them would make that type of decision."

Howard sprinter and junior sports medicine major Joe Claiborne does not agree with the use of steroids in professional sports, but says that they are becoming more and more of a common place.

"It corrupts the game,

and it is sad because you have kids in high school and in college looking up to these athletes who are setting amazing records, and it feels like we are always trying to catch up to their standards. What kind of example is that?"

"Back in the older days, everyone took sports seriously. Now it has become a game of injections and pill popping," Claiborne said.

Recently, many great athletic feats are being overshadowed by speculations of possible performance enhancing drugs, testosterone and steroids, such as the current controversy surrounding San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds in Major League Baseball.

In wake of these incidents, those like Claiborne worry that those at a very dangerous curve where it will be questioned if they are all using drugs or if they are just "that good."



Photo courtesy of www.foxsports.com

Justin Gatlin agreed to forfeit the world record he tied earlier this year after positive tests for testosterone enhancers surfaced.

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY...

On Aug. 29 1965, Giants outfielder Willie Mays hit his 17th home run of the month, breaking Ralph Kiner's record.

“NAME THE NEW PAGE” CONTEST

The Hilltop has a new page, but we couldn't decide on a title. We're having a contest to see who can come up with the best name. We're looking for something with a bit of wit and a lot of style to describe this page, which will contain a male-female face-off, an advice column, staff columns, cartoons and interactive features. The winner, in addition to the auspicious honor of having added to The Hilltop legacy and having their name run in the next issue, will receive a free Hilltopic and a Howard University T-Shirt. Submissions will be accepted until midnight on Monday, September 4. Please submit all responses to hilltopjana@gmail.com.



He Said

Modern chivalry (or lack thereof) is a topic that has initiated the battle of the sexes time and time again.

Women say it's dead, men refute their claim and we are left in the same place that we started but with the added bonus of new frustrations. In order to get somewhere on this issue an open mind is a necessity.

First, let me admit, chivalry is dying! The debate, however, is who is at fault for its decline. There are a few reasons that place blame on each sex evenly.

On the male side of things we are slacking but that is due to the lack of an example. Many young men do not have that positive male influence to show how to be man let alone a gentleman and a champion for chivalry.

As the saying goes "how can he be a man if he never gets to see a man?" Yet, if you see an elderly woman struggling with groceries on the bus, common sense should tell you to get up so that she can sit.

Let me not forget about the other side of the coin. Often women's expectations can cause the rift or the per-

ception of one.

I have personally seen women grab for the door-knob before the man she was with could get to it and then complain about it later. There are also women who get offended when men attempt an act of chivalry.

Then those who actually do open the door for a lady, give up their seat, or walk on the street side of the sidewalk repeatedly feel as though their acts go unappreciated.

These things dissuade men from making that extra effort when they know that their deeds will only make them subject to scrutiny and rarely receive a simple "thank you."

We also have to look at the differences that exist between modern times and the era when chivalry thrived. Women served a more subservient role and were seen as the weaker sex.

Therefore, chivalry was an institution that was seen by the majority of society as a necessity in order to do things for women which they could not do for themselves.

However, we currently live in a world where it



Photo Courtesy of www.wetfil2.com

is commonplace to find a woman in the same role as a man or even in a more dominant position.

So in a time of emerging equality in gender roles, is there really a place for chivalry?

If so, then maybe we need to reform the standard of what chivalry is to better fit the social constructs of our modern day society.

She Said

that simply does not suffice as an excuse. Just because I'm liberated and technically could open the door for myself doesn't mean that you can't do it for me.

And I'm not asking anyone to take off their coat and cover a puddle so that my shoes don't get dirty, but would it be a difficult feat to get a step ahead and open the door before I get there? It neither puts you out too much nor puts me walking two steps behind.

It's not about being subservient or pampered. It's simply about being treated with consideration and some sort of respect. It's about showing me that you understand that courtship is important and I'm actually worth your time and effort.

Sure, some people may not think it's any indication of anything. Some may even resent it as a throwback to pre-suffrage times when things were done for women because people thought them incapable of taking care of themselves. But it should be looked at as a default. Rarely, will you find someone who curses you out for showing a little courtesy, but in the long

run, wouldn't that be better than being cursed out for not showing any at all?

And notice that at no point did I ask for someone to pay for my meal. Because chivalry is not a fiscal matter, but a matter of manners. It's about consideration and the demonstration of some sort of respect.

And chivalry doesn't only belong in the realm of courtship. Everyday life could benefit from an infusion of manners. If you see an old woman standing on the bus, giving her your seat wouldn't be the most challenging thing in the world but would make a positive statement in a world that could certainly use it.

Besides, I think that if women are expected to continue to conform to gender roles and you expect me to cook you some food, then you need to be prepared to act according to the same rules and pull out my chair when I get to the table.

In the words of Destiny's Child (who should clearly be quoted on such matters), "Cater to my man like he caters to me."

From the Minds of Joshua Thomas & Jana Homes

??? Ask The Hilltop ???

Many readers have suggested that The Hilltop run an advice column, so we have decided to oblige. Here are a few sample questions and answers to get us started.

Dear Hilltop,

I'm a freshman and my high school girlfriend and I decided not to break up for college. Do you have any advice for how to keep our relationship together while we're apart?

-Long Distance Boo Lovin'

Dear Long Distance,

Hate to sound pessimistic, but from what I've seen of college, and certainly, what I've seen of Howard, maintaining a high school relationship doesn't usually work out. That's not to say that you shouldn't even attempt it, but only to encourage you to really evaluate how much you're willing to put into the maintenance.

If you decide that keeping the connection is the move to make, then just try to remember a few important things. It's just as hard for her as it is for you. You have to trust her not to be doing you dirty, so avoid overly suspicious questioning.

Put in the effort, by calling, instant messaging, or communicating through your preferred medium. It's important to keep up conversation and interaction on a regular basis, because in situations like these, absence may not make the heart grow fonder, but she certainly might become out of sight and thus out of mind.

And if, somewhere down the line, that girl eyeing you across freshman composition starts to look like a more attractive option, be up-front and honest with both of them, because no girl wants to be played by someone she's come to trust (and has presumably been giving up a few things for, while at her own institution) and no girl wants to find out that she's the other woman. Trust me. I've been there. It's not fun for anyone involved, so please, be honest.

But don't lose all hope. I know a couple coming upon their fourth year of collegiate

couple-dom and they're going strong and engaged, so it can work if you put in the work.

-Miss Communication

Dear Hilltop,

I've finally made it to my senior year, but I think I've overextended myself. How should I decide which activities to give up, if any? What should I do to keep myself from getting overwhelmed?

-Spread Like Mustard

Dear Spread,

I've run into this problem a time or two, myself. What I came to find is that everything I was doing wasn't necessarily giving me back everything I was putting into it, so I had to sit down and try to pin point those items.

Start making a list of all of the things that require a time commitment. Include everything from the debate team to your significant other or even your close friends.

Then take each activity and try to figure out which ones may not be yielding a full return and cut those, if you can. [Note: Academics should not be one of these items, as it is technically why we came here in the first place.]

Once you've cut your list down as much as possible, it's really just a bunch of things you've always been told and should practice regardless of how many things you've got on your plate.

Don't procrastinate. Be proactive. Be organized. Think long-term and plan ahead. Every party isn't the party and if it is, then you can just wait until someone throws another one that's just as great.

And in the end, just try to be realistic. If you can't do it, you can't do it [again, not including academics, which you must do.]

-Miss Communication

Note: Your letter may be answered by various hilltoppers functioning under pseudonym. The Hilltop is not responsible for the resultant actions. Please, be aware that results may vary.

Overheard @ The Mecca

'You Are Not The Father!'

Overheard leaving Clyde's in Chinatown

Little Girl: (runs up to male Howard student) You look like my daddy. Are you my daddy?

Male Howard Student: (bewildered) Uh umm...

Girl's Mother: What did she say to you?

MHS: "Are you my daddy?"

GM: Oh my God, this is so embarrassing!

GM: (to daughter) Why would you embarrass me like that? You know your father is white!

Moments later while MHS is telling the story...

MHS: (to friends) That's sad, she was just using her daughter to catch some white men. I'M NOT WHITE!

Random White Woman: WELL WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU THEN!?!

What If... ?

This feature poses a situation to the readers and allows them to predict what might happen. For instance, What if...

... Homey the Clown was Learning to Riverdance?

Homey the Clown: Hello Michael Flatley, I wanna learn how to riverdance because (breaks into song) Riverdancin' looks like fun/ lots of fun for everyone/ unless you've been pimped by the system/ locked away and no one missed him/ lost valuable years being property of the state/ cuz the man won't let the black man be great/ but riverdancing is really where it's at/ No, I don't think so... Homey don't play that!!!

Next Week's Scene: What if Ned Flanders was in the movie "BAPS?"

Please send any responses to the soon to be renamed page, including potential names, 'He Said ... She Said' topics, 'Ask The Hilltop' questions, things you've overheard @ The Mecca, or 'What If ...?' responses to hilltopjana@gmail.com

EDITORIALS & Perspectives



Hurricane Katrina: A Year Later

We watched with astonishment as President Bush took days to visit New Orleans once the levees broke. A year after Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc on the Gulf Coast it is saddening to see how little has changed.

Storm waters blew more than just the roofs of thousands of homes and the Superdome. They blew the blinders off the eyes of many U.S. citizens, showing that this country might be a world superpower – but it had many difficulties dealing with a crisis at home.

We reflect on the hurricane that wiped away New Orleans as we know it, and remember the thousands of lives that were lost and the dozens of bodies that are still left to be identified. We also acknowledge that Katrina affected more than New Orleans.

With the entire Gulf Coast

affected, and evacuees spread from Canada to the West Coast, Katrina's wounds will take much longer than 365 days to heal.

Though we understand Hurricane Katrina can't be the lead story everyday, it does seem like the news has moved away from making the rebuild-

Our View:

Much help has been given to rebuild the Gulf Coast yet much remains to be done

ing of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast a priority.

Unlike Southeast Asia where citizens stayed after the tsunami and made progress in rebuilding and reopening businesses, New Orleans still looks too much like it did last August.

While New Orleans natives were aided in getting

out of the city, they were only given one-way tickets which makes it hard to come back. Though Mayor Ray Nagin encourages victims to return, the cost is way too expensive for the primarily low-income families. We hope that the University and other institutions will continue to support those students who came to Howard after Katrina hit and those who are Gulf Coast natives.

The coverage on Hurricane Katrina has returned now that the one year anniversary has arrived, but for the thousands that were directly affected it is a every day reality.

Spike Lee's "When the Levees Broke" is a testament to the fact that black people will still need to be their own vital instrument in overcoming struggle.

America Still Doesn't Care About Us

Tarah Kesse

Now that I have your attention, I'd like to share with you how I came to this conclusion. Over the past few weeks, I've been watching a lot of documentaries to gain more insight on the world.

I'd like to assume that the majority of Howard students watched HBO on Monday and Tuesday and witnessed what I saw.

The Spike Lee documentary "When the Levees Broke" was both moving and infuriating. I watched as thousands of people, who looked like me, were forced to live through one of the most horrific natural disasters in American history.

The hurricane didn't cause

all those people to suffer. The American government caused most of the suffering, through its slow response and seeming apathy towards the victims.

How could anyone witness such flagrant disregard, and disrespect from our government, and not think on some level that the American government doesn't care about us?

Tonight, as I sit and watch yet another documentary "Out of Control: Aids in Black America" and hear the statistics about AIDS in America, I'm not only scared, I'm pissed off.

The AIDS epidemic has become widespread among blacks. According to recent studies, there are two pro-

grams that, if federally funded, would help significantly slow the spread of AIDS among black Americans: distributing condoms in prisons and needle exchange programs. Conservatives in the legislature have made sure neither of these programs were funded.

Being black in America has never been easy and as a culture, it has taken an exorbitant amount of effort to get any recognition from our government.

Looking at how we are STILL being treated why aren't we more outraged, more vocal, more active in an effort to change America for the better?

Placing Blame in American Problems

Paul G. Jaehnert

Since the Bush Administration, Republicans in Congress, and the President have been trying to fix blame on anyone but themselves for

lack of reasonable response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, as well as bulging federal deficits, wasteful spending, lack of respect in the world community, the Abu Ghraib prison debacle, and

outrageous prescription drug prices. I have a suggestion for them: if they truly want to pinpoint responsibility for all of the above, all they need to do is to look into the mirror.

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The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of 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.

The Way I See It ...

The First Day of School



BY CIARA FAMBLE
Life & Style Editor

It's different when you're a senior.

You feel like you should know everyone and still, but there are still a lot of new people around. You have more options than Subway or McDonalds, because someone you know probably has a car. Instead of sneaking into a dorm, you now walk into your friend's apartment. And you realize that the question, "how was your summer?" might never be directed at you again after you walk across that stage in May.

When I got here as a freshman a mere 3 years ago, I was baffled as to why the members of the class of 2004 (the graduating class that year) were so excited to be seniors.

Now I know why. It really means something. It takes a lot to get here, and until you make it, you just don't get it. So that's why this year, "The Way I See It" will be all about those differences. And it all starts with the first day of school.

While the first day of the semester during freshman year is full of stunting on the Yard, the first day of senior year is full of hustling around, getting those coveted overrides, and making sure the credits you have will actually help you graduate in the spring.

Now that's not to say that you don't go through some things (surviving the food in the Café, the shuttle ride to Meridian, and getting ready for standardized tests is nothing to sneeze at), but there are some things you can't see coming until you're actually in that senior year.

One friend of mine returned this fall to find that she didn't have a room in the dorm she signed up for, and had to move clear across campus. Another found out that she couldn't live off-campus and keep her scholarship...after she had been told twice that she could. And yet another friend lost her scholarship by .01 quality points after they changed the GPA requirement.

And even I am now a proud off campus resident, after returning from the summer to find that I, like many of my fellow seniors, had nowhere to live.

So what did I learn that I didn't already know? Come back early from summer break to get the guaranteed housing in the actual building you signed up for, verify everything with the highest authority you can access, and to ALWAYS save confirmations.

And definitely don't get lax just because you've never had any real issues with Financial Aid, Residence Life, or your professor. When you least expect it... you will.

But the best thing about being a senior is that, somewhere throughout your Howard years, you find out that you actually have learned to deal with it.

Ciara wants to use *The Hilltop* to relate to her fellow seniors and to demystify the senior year for all those who aren't yet there. Please email subject suggestions to lifandstyle2006@yahoo.com.

'When the Levees Broke' Raises Questions

BY ANGELA BACON
Asst. Copy Chief

In the wake of the one year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, HBO Films in conjunction with Spike Lee's 40 Acres & A Mule Filmworks, presents "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts".

The documentary, which began production three months after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, mourns the loss of life in a city known for its vibrant people, music, and way of life.

The documentary, which is separated into four parts, seeks to highlight different aspects of the storm and the days following the breaking of the levees in the 9th ward.

Told through a series of vivid images and extensive interviews with government officials, residents of all races, local police and New Orleans mayor Ray Nagin, the documentary captures the totality of the damage to the city and its residents.

During interviews with residents of the 9th ward, Lee pushes his interviewees by asking emotionally provocative questions, bringing to the



Photo Courtesy of www.hbo.com

Spike Lee's new documentary depicts the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

screen the depth of the personal effect the disaster had on individuals.

Through the course of the interviews, the documentary chronicles the series of events from the first rain, through the waiting for rescue teams, to the Superdome and highway overpasses where many spent five days without food or shelter, the eventual evacuation of the thousands left behind, and the return of the few who sought to recover what was left from the wreckage.

Also accompanying images of flooded homes, homeless

victims, floating bodies and widespread devastation is a startling soundtrack with pieces performed by New Orleans native Wynton Marsalis.

Marsalis, a world renowned jazz trumpeter and composer, is one of many elements used by Lee to capture the grief of all those affected by the storm. In the midst of the wreckage, poet and New Orleans native Shelton "Shakespeare" Alexander also offers up his grief in the form of spoken word.

A large portion of the documentary is dedicated to help-

ing the viewer understand the circumstances under which the damage to the New Orleans area was done.

"Most people think that it was Katrina that brought about the devastation to New Orleans," said Lee. "But it was that put 80 percent of the city under water. It was not the hurricane."

Thus, only a small portion of the four hour documentary is spent detailing Hurricane Katrina.

Lee, in an interview with HBO, describes his filming

experiences.

"It was a very painful experience to see my fellow American citizens, the majority of them African-Americans, in the dire situation they were in," says Lee, when describing the condition of those left behind days after the storm. "And I was outraged with the slow response of the Federal Government."

Lee visited New Orleans in an eight trip expedition for footage, interviews, and other material to piece together the lives of the people and the various viewpoints of the city's diverse population.

"New Orleans is fighting for its life," said Lee. "These are not people who will disappear quietly - they're accustomed to hardship and slights, and they'll fight for New Orleans. This film will showcase the struggle for New Orleans by focusing on the profound loss, as well as the indomitable spirit of New Orleanians."

The documentary first aired on HBO Monday, August 21st and is scheduled for a second run August 29th from 8pm to midnight to commemorate the one year anniversary of the disaster.

Freshmen Get Pierced, Tattooed for Independence

BY DANIELLE KWATENG
Hilltop Staff Writer

This is the first in a two-part series about how freshmen assert their independence in fashionable ways.

As the cold long needle pierces your skin, you feel a bead of sweat run down your forehead in nervousness. You hold your breath to not let out a scream, but the only thing running through your mind is, "I hope this comes out cute!"

Freshman year in college is one of the most exciting times for a young adult. The US Census Bureau predicts that there will be a 51% increase of students enrolled in college since 1970.

For these incoming freshmen, a sense of independence is gained from living without guardians. Howard students and freedom, often use tattoos and piercings.

Raina Rorie, a sophomore international business major got her piercing despite her mother's wishes.

"My Mom knows about



By Nicole Reed

Jasmine Powell, a Howard student, displays her butterfly tattoo and belly piercing above. Freshmen have found independence in their body expressions.

my piercing. She wasn't happy, but wasn't that mad either," Rorie said. "It was something that I have always wanted, and I had thought of doing it before college...My Mom told me she thought I'd take it out, but I told her I would do it when I wanted to."

Rorie said she opted for a piercing because it could be removed.

A study by the Boston Children's Hospital estimates around 10 percent of teens

between the ages of 12 and 18 have been inked up at least once.

The legal age in most states to obtain a tattoo alone is 18; so when obtained alone it shows independence of age. Teenagers always seem eager to grow up and do things on their own these days, but many are used to having their independence of choice from a young age.

"I got my first tattoo in 8th grade and I'm getting my 7th today," said sophomore international business major Mark Lay.

Lay was tattooed at a young age and for other reasons besides exerting his independence. "I get mine to be different. Each and every tattoo on any person sets them apart from the next, so it makes the person unique," Lay said. Junior English major Whitney Wingate has similar sentiments when it comes to her tattoo and piercing. "I got something to reflect how I saw myself. I think I'm strong and beautiful, but I do have flaws still, which are, in my opinion, equivalent to the thorns on a rose", Wingate said.

Wingate attributes her tattoo inspiration from the song "Mind Sex" by Dead Prez. "The spoken word at the end [of the song] was about a woman, a black rose...eternal rose, sweet rose. I thought... that sounds like me...and I got the colors black, red and green because those are the colors of the Pan-African flag. So the rose was perfect, in that it fit how I saw myself and the mes-

sage I want to convey about who I am, or who I am trying to become", Wingate added.

Freshman civil engineering major Jarett Payne got his tattoo this summer before arriving at Howard. Although his peers were "impressed" by his tattoo Payne says "my tattoo is for me and me alone". When asked if he plans to get one while at Howard, Payne replied, "I might get a DC tattoo to compliment my St. Louis one...I'll figure something out".

Top Notch Tattoo Studio has been open for five years and many of their clientele are Howard students. Although the average age of their clientele is 23 they "tend to get more business from the freshmen", Dune Spruill said. Spruill is a tattoo artist for Top Notch and thinks there are certain things students should do before they come to get a tattoo. "Think about it before you get here and don't get someone's name because it's a lifelong thing", Spruill replied.

WHAT'S IN YOUR BAG?



We at *Life and Style* have noticed something...people carry their lives in their bags. Whether it's a designer, knockoff, or a book bag, Howard students have it all in the bag. So we decided to randomly ask students to volunteer to show us what's in their bag. It gives you a chance to get a little of the spotlight and show your personality, and we get to be nosy! So clean out those receipts and any incriminating evidence. You never know if we'll ask 'What's in your bag?'



What in your bag can't you live without?

"I can't live without my mirror, lipgloss and keys. I think that you should always have lip gloss because a little bit of MAC lipgloss always enhances your look, you never know who you'll run into. I could be discovered on Georgia Ave.!"

- Asha Horne, Junior Broadcast Journalism major

Up to the Minute



Photos Courtesy of www.nordstrom.com

Classically portrayed as the print of choice for the movie screen siren, leopard print makes its resurgence in fashion at least once a decade. Once again, leopard print is the fabric of choice for Hollywood fashion machines, popping up everywhere from L.A.M.B.'s double breasted trenches to Christian Louboutin's platform peep toes. If you don't want to look like you escaped from the local zoo, make sure to use this print sparingly.