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The Hilltop 9-27-2007

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WEATHER

 **87**
66
Tomorrow:
87
66

THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 91, NO. 22

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007

Established
1924



THURSDAY
Notebook

BREAKING NEWS

U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY ROBERT GATES REQUESTED \$190 BILLION FOR WAR FUNDING IN 2008, ACCORDING TO CNN.COM

CAMPUS

LOOK INSIDE TO FIND TWO STUDENTS' STORIES ABOUT WORKING ON CAMPUS WHILE GOING TO SCHOOL.

NATION & WORLD

STATES ARE GOING BELOW THE BELT — NEW LAWS IN ATLANTA AND DALLAS TO REGULATE SAGGING PANTS.

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Howard Leaders to Speak at Annual Legislative Conference

BY MONICA JONES
Staff Writer

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation has launched its 37th Annual Legislative Conference at the Washington Convention Center. The theme for 2007 is "Unleashing Our Power."

Considered one of the most important assemblies of African Americans in the nation, the Annual Legislative Conference provides a unique opportunity for members of Congress to discuss issues with community and religious leaders, African American executives and members of national organizations. However, it has become clear that a significant amount of college students express interest each year in being a part of this annual event.

"I have attended every conference since I was a freshman," said Peter Carr, NAACP President of the Howard Chapter. "It is a great networking opportunity. It is an experience we should all be taking advantage of while we are in D.C."

"A lot of times, young people are accused of being apathetic toward politics," Carr said. "Here at Howard we have the opportunity to let people know that we do care about social issues in the nation."

Carr and Marcus Ware, Howard University Student Association president, are going to be panelists for one of the many forums during the convention. They will be leading the discussion on the Young Gifted and Black.

Howard University's Political Science department has taken initiative in enabling students to attend the convention with the hopes that Political Science students will discuss any obstruction to the American justice system.

"A lot of the professors within the Political Science department are associated with the Congressional Black Caucus and so a lot of students will have the chance to go," said junior Political Science major, Austin Thompson.

"It is a great experience to see African American Con-

gress members discuss critical issues and possible legislation. Our professors encourage all students to attend the panel that discusses the faults of the American justice system.

"There is an emergence of new leadership," Thompson said. "The civil rights leaders in the sixties were different from those in the forties and thirties. Each generation learns from the past, but they must devise their own tactics in addressing the current transformation of America."

"The theme this year is 'Unleashing Our Power,'" said Muriel Cooper, a Consultant for the Congressional Black Caucus Federation. "It reflects upon the collective power within African Americans."

Universities around the District are encouraging students to attend this momentous event. One such institution was the University of the District of Columbia.

"We want our students to attend the convention," said Dr. Sheila Harmon-Martin, Chair of the Department of Urban Affairs



Members of the Congressional Black Caucus take a ceremonial oath on the opening day of the 109th Congress Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2005.

and Social Science. "I leave it up to individual faculty members to decide which forums the students should attend. I have urged many of my student leaders to attend the Emerging Student Series."

A recent graduate of the University of the District of Columbia, David Gaston has made

an effort to be at some of the various forums during the week's convention.

"I am excited about the new style of leadership," Gaston said. "New leadership does not play by the rules of the old leadership. It is more aggressive."

Dr. Harmon-Martin had

similar thoughts. "It is great to see our youth involved. As a student of the sixties, I am happy to be able to pass the baton. I am so happy to see young people taking leadership roles. We have created a legacy that has to be continued."

Divinity School Students Still Awaiting Improvements, One Year Later

BY TRAVER RIGGINS
Campus Editor

Nearly a year ago, Howard University School of Divinity students protested in hopes of speeding along a then three-year search for a permanent dean for their school.

A new dean has since been appointed and is slated to begin his duties in January, but recent events indicate fervent unrest among the students.

On Friday, Leslie Harris launched hu-shame.info. The Web site highlights the concerns of the students, mainly with the physical facilities of the building. Four photo galleries hold pictures of leaky ceilings—some with missing tiles, residue-stained drinking fountains and crumbling handrails.

Harris said she launched the site to provide a source of information for people interested in the concerns of the students at the school. But other reasons also motivate her.

"I want the world to know how we're treated so that it can change," Harris said. "Because it's not right. I wanted alumni and everybody to have access to the site."



(Above) A group of divinity students protests the lack of a permanent dean of the school outside of the main campus in 2006.

Harris and some other students believe their school has been labeled as a "step-child" by the university and that there is not enough time, attention or money paid to the school.

The vice provost of the university and the interim dean of the divinity school have not responded to The Hilltop requests for comment submitted Monday through University Communications.

Some students find the Web site unnecessary with the arrival of the new dean, Ashton Pollard, who reports for duty at

the beginning of the next semester, in January 2008.

"We are paying our fees now. We're going to school now. We're doing our work now...we shouldn't have to wait for the new dean," Harris said.

Some see the new dean as a saving grace, but Harris said that with the current conditions and low morale, Pollard could be turned off.

Shea Drake, the HUSD student council president, said the Web site and the school's stu-

> See **DIVINITY**, Page 3

Most Students at Howard Not Using Emergency System

BY CHRISTINA BURTON
Staff Writer

Close to 3,000 Howard students registered with AlertHU, the university's emergency notification system, said Vice Provost Dr. Franklin Chambers.

After the murders of 33 people at Virginia Tech in April, Howard University decided that students needed to be contacted via e-mail and telephone with haste so that they can be informed of what to do in case of an emergency situation on or around campus. Similar to the District of Columbia's AlertDC, Howard calls their new system AlertHU.

According to Chambers, the database containing all of the registered students' telephone numbers and e-mail addresses is already set up meaning that in case of an emergency happening as soon as today, students would be notified promptly.

The emergency incident at Meridian Hill on Sept. 10 resulted in students warning other students via text messaging and phone calls because AlertHU was not completely set up yet. However, the rumor of a sniper shooting frightened and panicked many students and faculty alike.

"It's important for every student to take advantage of this opportunity," Chambers said. "It's easy to sign up, and it's the difference be-

tween informed and safe or relying upon rumors and innuendos."

Chambers said that since the emergency incident at Meridian was centered on that dormitory alone, the university implemented the new shelter-in-place procedure, meaning students were not allowed to enter or exit the dorm. Students had to stay away from windows, lock doors and stay low to the floor, and shuttle service was suspended to and from Meridian for a couple of hours.

Student like Jude Stelly, a junior film major registered because they want to be alerted immediately if an emergency comes up on campus.

"There is always a chance for something [like] 9/11 to happen at any point," Stelly said.

On the contrary, Stelly says that his living in Slowe brings him less worry as far as any major emergencies happening. Last year's rapes and robberies in the Ledroit Park and Slowe-Carver areas make students more alert, according to Stelly.

"As far as me staying down in the Slowe-Carver area I don't see anything big happening in the near future that could cause a large amount of deaths or injuries," Stelly said.

"I believe that people are aware of the surrounding area enough now to know that they should not be out very late by themselves prone to rape and robbery."

> See **ALERT**, Page 3

State Law Could Impede on Minority Voting Laws, Experts Predict

BY GREG GORDON
McClatchy Newspaper (MCT)

WASHINGTON — Ohio and Florida, which provided the decisive electoral votes for President Bush's two razor-thin national election triumphs, have enacted laws that election experts say will help Republicans impede Democratic-leaning minorities from voting in 2008.

Backers of the new laws say they're aimed at curbing voter fraud. But the statutes also could facilitate a controversial Republican tactic known as "vote caging," which the GOP attempted in Ohio and Florida in 2004 before public disclosures foiled the efforts, said

Joseph Rich, a former Justice Department voting rights chief in the Bush administration who's now with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights.

Caging, used in the past to target poor minorities in heavily Democratic precincts, entails sending mass mailings to certain voters and then using the undelivered letters to compile lists of voters for eligibility challenges.

As the high-stakes ground war escalates heading into next year's elections, Republicans have led the charge for an array of revisions to state voting rights laws, especially in key battleground states. Republican political appointees in the Justice Depart-

ment's Civil Rights Division have endorsed some of these measures.

Over the last three years, the Republican-controlled state legislatures in Indiana, Georgia, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin have passed laws requiring every voter to produce a photo identification card or measures that civil rights groups contend were aimed at suppressing minority voting.

The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to consider a constitutional challenge to Indiana's ID law on grounds that it unfairly affects poor and elderly voters. Gubernatorial vetoes or court rulings have nullified legislation in the other four states. A federal judge in

Georgia, however, recently upheld a new photo ID law that imposes fewer obstacles to obtaining one.

In Ohio, which swung the 2004 election to Bush, new Democratic Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner said in a phone interview that an election law passed last year and signed by former Republican Gov. Bob Taft effectively "institutionalized" vote caging.

The law requires that the state's 88 county election boards send non-forwardable, pre-election notices to all 7.8 million registered Ohio voters at least 60 days before the election. Undelivered letters are public record, she said, meaning that effectively, "now the counties are paying for" the data

needed to compile challenge lists. In law toughened, Brunner said, the board can make that decision without notice. A disqualified voter who shows up at the polls must demonstrate that he's fixed any eligibility problem or opt for filing a provisional ballot that may not count.

Brunner said the new

law has left her feeling "like being in a hand fight with one hand behind your back." She said she's sought, "while working within the framework of preventing fraud," to make it "as easy as possible for people who are eligible to participate."

"We feel the eyes of the nation are on us, no matter what we do," Brunner said.

A 2005 Florida law, approved by the Justice Department under the Voting Rights Act, stripped the state's 10.5 million registered voters of the right to contest challenges at the polls. Now a challenger need only swear

> See **VOTING**, Page 3

Political Economist Praises Communism to HU Students

BY SHIVONNE FOSTER
Staff Writer

When considering how to repair many of the issues in our country such as racial injustices, gender inequality and disparities among class, Raymond Lotta, a Maoist political economist embraces the ideologies of socialism and communism rather than capitalism, as he shared in Douglass Hall Wednesday evening.

"The purpose of tonight's program is to take on the distortion and misrepresentation about communism and socialism in the 21st century," Lotta said. "Whenever you turn in media and mainstream scholarship the message is put out that communism is a failure and can lead to social nightmare, but I am refuting these facts."

Lotta, in compliance with the "Set the Record Straight" initiative, has traveled to universities around the coun-

try and internationally, including visits to UCLA, Columbia University and the University of London to bring forth the vision of embracing socialism as a transition to communism.

Lotta explained that through social analyzing he has come to acknowledge the many social injustices present, nationally and internationally, that can be rooted to communism.

"With communism, we could create a new economic system in which production for social need and use replace production for profit," Lotta said.

To the full classroom of students and Howard visitors, Lotta defended his claim, while noting cases like the Jena "6" and unequal pay for women, by explaining that capitalism has led to and encouraged the exploitation of blacks, women and the poor.

"The treatment of the Jena '6' is another brutal experience of oppression of blacks in society; it wasn't just the nooses,

but a justice system that sees black youth as nothing more than criminals in the waiting," he said.

"The goal for a communist revolution would be to do away with all unequal and oppressive social relations and gender and race relations," he said. "We are bombarded with the message the capitalism is the only workable position, but the potential of this world cannot be realized under capitalism."

"I agree with about 90 percent of the things he said, but I disagree with what was said about religion," said Lawrence Clemons, a junior insurance and actuary science major. "A lot of times when we look at the history of communist leaders in a bad light, but how are we going to judge another society's leader when we look at what ours have done?"

Clemons explained that he didn't share the opinion of Lotta that religion would have to be "done away with"

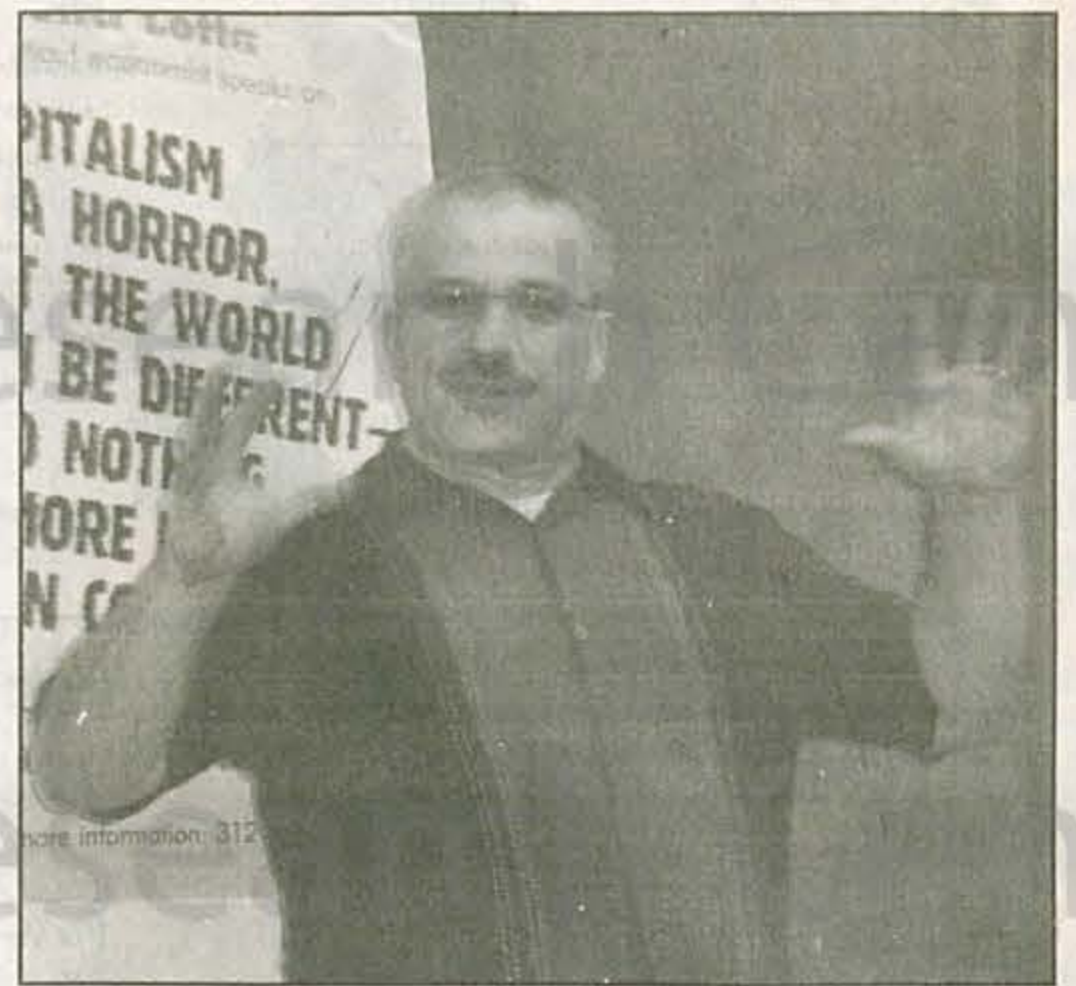
under a socialist society since it is seen as an obstacle that was only created to answer difficult questions.

Lotta and the "Set the Record Straight" initiative left many students questioning the view of embracing socialism and communism.

"He did make some good points about how communism could be a good idea," said Catherine Farrad, a freshman political science major. "But I expected the program to be more interactive. I didn't feel like it was being applied to our lives but was just general."

Merci Dixon, a freshman philosophy major, shared Dixon's sentiments saying, "He made it seem like he wanted us to join the Communist party, and by incorporating race into the discussion he tried to get us to agree, but if the audience had been majority white I'm not sure if he would have said anything about race."

"I feel like there were



Chanee Holmes - Staff Photographer

Political economist Raymond Lotta explains to students why socialism, and then capitalism, is the answer to racial, economic and social problems.

holes in his logic," Dixon said. "He mentioned the Soviet revolution and how there was equal-

ity for everyone but I don't think that's accurate."

Student Employment Program an Alternative to Work Study



Tyrone Clemons - Staff Photographer

Students who do not qualify for federal work study have the option to apply for the Howard University Student Employment Program, which puts money in their pockets for tuition and other needs.

BY CHRISTINE DELOATCH
Contributing Writer

Being raised in a single parent home can often present its financial challenges. The growing costs of college can deter children living with only one parent from even attempting to attend a university.

For Ellis Williams, a junior nursing major, it was difficult to think that his mother, Donna Sanders, would be able to successfully send both him and his sister to college without being overwhelmed with debt.

Instead of sitting back and hoping that everything would sort itself out or solely depending on his mother to

fund the cost of tuition, Williams decided to take matters into his own hands.

"I couldn't allow my mom to worry herself too much," he said. "She has done so much for me and my sister; it was about time that I demonstrated my appreciation."

Williams wanted his mother to see that she had raised a mature, young adult. "When I graduate, I want her to simply be proud of my diploma and to not be concerned about the loans that she'd have to pay back," he said.

Williams was determined to find a way to finance a college career. "I knew that I needed to find a job, but I didn't

want to work off-campus. The commute required money that I didn't have."

So after diligently researching various scholarships and grants, he was able to unveil a great solution—work-study.

Marcus DeCosta, interim director and representative of the Office of Financial Aid, Scholarships and Student Employment said, "The Federal Work Study (FWS) program is a federal student aid program created by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The purpose of the program is to provide jobs for eligible students who need financial assistance to attend college."

According to DeCosta, students must apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). He adds that FWS is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Some students may not meet the federal government's "financial need" criteria, and for this reason, Howard created a program that provides employment opportunities despite a student's financial situation.

DeCosta said that in addition to FWS, the university established the Howard University Student Employment Program (HUSEP) on Jan. 1, 1978. According to DeCosta, this gives much needed financial assistance to its students.

"Its purpose is to provide campus-wide employment opportunities for enrolled students whom may not be eligible for the Federal Work-Study Program," he said.

Students living in a single-parent home, like Williams, have a greater chance of being granted federal work study.

"My financial status made me applicable for federal

work study. My mom's responsible for two dependents and both are in school. Our situation definitely required financial assistance," DeCosta said.

Work-study positions can be found several places near campus.

"Jobs may be located on or off campus and the program will make an effort to match the type of work you are assigned to with your courses of study or other abilities, based on the personal information you provide on your application," he said.

According to DeCosta, on-campus jobs are usually working for the school in areas such as dining halls, academic departments, the bookstore or within the university library.

Off-campus work is usually completed with a public agency or non-profit organization, such as DC READ or Habitat for the Humanity. Work-study students earn at least the federal minimum wage, though some make more if the job they have requires special skills.

Patrick Scott, a junior marketing major, was chosen to work in the Office of Admissions as a part of FWS.

"I love working here. My bosses are friendly and my schedule is very flexible," Scott said.

Williams was selected to participate in off-campus work-study at Cooke Elementary School.

"Cooke was a great school to work at," he said. "The kids were fun and the job wasn't stressful. The school's located right across from the Annex, so the location was convenient. I was worried that work-study would take up studying or relaxing time, but

it didn't," he said.

Both FWS and HUSEP encourage students to maintain satisfactory grades. In accordance with this goal, both programs limit their participants to a maximum of 20 hours per week.

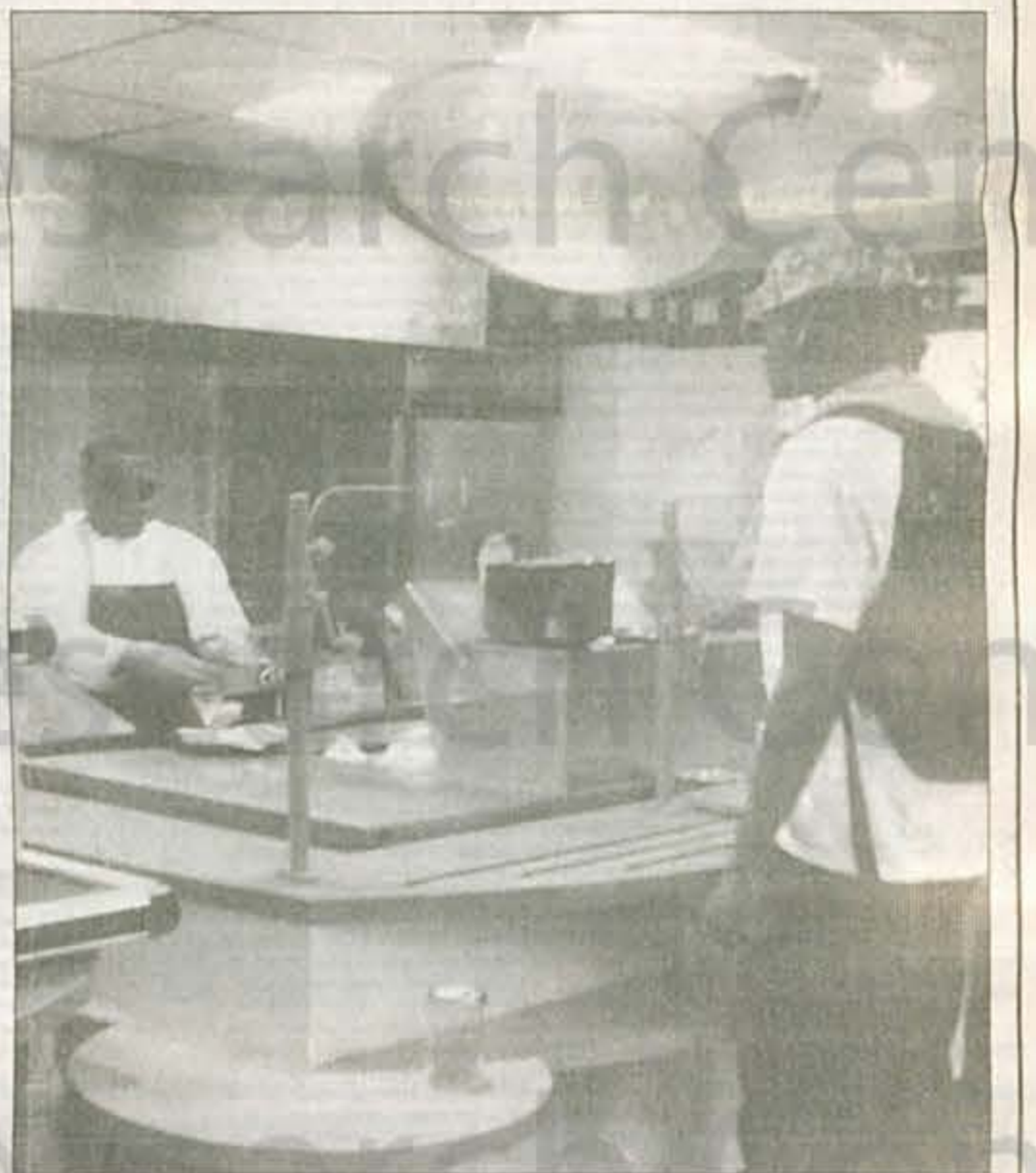
If one chooses to work during university breaks, such as Christmas, spring and summer breaks, they may work a maximum of 40 hours per week. Scott said, "The only problem I have with work study is that they

limit how many hours you can work a week. Unlike other jobs, like retail, you can't pull more hours to make extra pocket money."

Williams believes grades come first.

"I know money is important, but impressing my future employers is what I'm trying to do," he said. "Excelling in my classes is my goal, and work-study is what made the opportunity possible."

Cafe Back in Business



Deortay Morris - Editorial Assistant

After being closed for over a day's worth of meals, the Blackburn Center cafeteria has re-opened. The cafe was shut down briefly, after an inspection by the District of Columbia Department of Health confirmed a rodent problem, as well as issues with backed up sewage and the trash compactor door.

You Need To Know: Presidential Candidate Barack Obama

BY ROYCE STRAHAN
Staff Writer

Past African-American trailblazers and presidential candidates such as Shirley Chisholm, Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson led the way and made it possible for democratic candidate, Barack Obama to run in this year's presidential election.

With Barack Obama's anticipated speech at Friday's opening Convocation, he is a person we all need to know.

Obama is the keynote speaker at the 140th opening Convocation, and many of the students and staff are excited about having a man who could potentially be the next president of the United States at the university.

Opening Convocation is a welcoming ceremony for the new students of Howard University and also serves as a venue for recognition of a few Howard students who have accomplished

amazing feats.

Obama, a current senator for the state of Illinois, will join a host of significant individuals in the black community who have been the keynote speakers at Howard's opening Convocation ceremonies such as Martin Luther King Jr., Ossie Davis, Nelson Mandela and Kofi Annan, according to Howard's Web site.

Obama was born in Hawaii on Aug. 4, 1961. He lived in Indonesia for a short time, and then he moved to New York to attend Columbia, where he graduated in 1983.

After finishing his collegiate career at Columbia, Obama desired to attend law school but decided to put that on hold and moved to Chicago in 1985 where he became a community organizer.

Obama returned to school shortly after and received his law degree from Harvard in 1991. He also became the first African-American president of the



James Coburn - MCT

Presidential contender Barack Obama, who will be the keynote speaker for opening Convocation on Friday, has a long history in politics.

Harvard Law Review in 1991. He then began his climb

to political success in Congress by becoming Illinois' state senator

where he served for eight years.

In 2004, Obama was elected to the U.S. Senate.

As a presidential candidate and senator, Obama has changed laws and implemented plans while thinking about American people's best interest.

He has taken a stance many times against the current war in Iraq.

At an anti-war rally in Chicago, Obama stated, "I don't oppose all wars. And I know that in this crowd today, there is no shortage of patriots, or of patriotism. What I am opposed to is a dumb war. What I am opposed to is a rash war."

If elected president, Obama states that he will provide affordable health care for Americans, restructure the education system for the better, fight poverty and implement many other changes that he believes will solve what he believes are problems for many Americans.

Obama runs as the only

black presidential candidate in the 2008 campaign.

But coming from mixed race parents, his mother white and his father from Kenya, his "blackness" is often called into question.

In 2004, Obama published his autobiography, "Dreams from My Father."

He published his second book, "Audacity of Hope," in 2006.

Obama is also a family man, a husband to Michelle Obama and father to two girls.

According to his web site, Obama's wife and two daughters, Malia and Sasha, have been supporters of Barack throughout his campaign along with many Americans across the country.

Obama has traveled around the country delivering speeches to different audiences.

Registration for Alert HU Available on Bison Web

Continued from FRONT, ALERT

If an emergency were to come up today, Chambers said, "We would of course utilize AlertHU, but we would also utilize our conventional methods as well like e-mail, flyers, local radio, Internet, etcetera."

Henrietta Njoku, junior nursing major, said she didn't notice it, but will sign up very soon. Njoku thinks that it is a good idea to have the system in place because communication at Howard has experienced

many breakdowns throughout the campus.

"This resource will allow students to get this information in a timely matter. I just hope that those who must delegate what information goes out do it in a timely manner," Njoku said. "Politics shouldn't delegate over protection."

Alexis Hamilton, junior nursing major, said she looked at it on Bison Web, but at that time, she did not know how important it was.

"I actually didn't know what it was to begin with," Hamilton said. "I just thought they wanted more information from me. Now that I am aware

that it is, I do think that it is essential for everyone to sign up. It's crucial for the protection of all Howard University students, staff and fellow visiting members as well if for nothing more than the safety of our own well being at Howard."

Some students, however, have been completely out of the loop when it comes to AlertHU. One student did not know about it at all, but plans to sign up soon because, according to him, he feels he has to.

Other students think that people will not register because the mass texting done during the Meridian Hill incident worked well enough to warn the

entire campus.

The university urges the remaining students to sign up via Bison Web as soon as possible. By signing up, students will receive a time-sensitive notification in the form of a voice message on their cellular phones, a text message and an e-mail in the event of an emergency. According to the Howard Web site, emergency notifications will be limited to such things as severe weather alerts, emergency building concerns, intruders or potential pandemics. The system will be tested periodically during its first semester of use and then once a semester thereafter.

Laws Could Affect Minority Voting

Continued from FRONT, VOTING

to a "good faith belief" that a voter is ineligible to force the voter to file a provisional ballot.

At the same time, the law reduces from three days to 48 hours the deadline for challenged voters to produce evidence that they're eligible to vote in their precincts.

Another Florida law imposed a \$250 penalty on voter registration workers for every registration application they fail to turn over to county registrars within 10 days. After the League of Women Voters sued and a judge blocked its implementation, the legislature cut the fine to \$50 per infraction.

Sterling Ivey, a spokesman for Florida Re-

publican Secretary of State Kurt Browning, said there has been no sign of a large caging operation.

"We don't see a significant number of challenges of voters in Florida," he said.

But former voting rights chief Rich said Ohio's and Florida's new laws "make one wonder whether there will be new efforts to have massive challenges in the future." A federal court injunction has barred the Republican National Committee for 25 years from engaging in racially targeted vote caging, but it doesn't extend to state parties.

Asked whether they might employ vote caging in 2008, Executive Director Jason Mack of the Ohio Republican Party and spokeswoman Erin VanSickle of the Florida Republican Party said they couldn't discuss election strategy.

Student Launches Web Site to Show School's Poor Facilities

Continued from FRONT, DIVINITY

dent government are separate.

Instead of highlighting problems, Drake holds strategic planning sessions for the students to voice the problems of the school and then find solutions in preparation for the arrival of the new dean.

"We don't want to present problems," Drake said. "We want to present solutions."

Problems addressed at Saturday's meeting concerned facilities, academic offerings and the shuttle service.

Drake said that there is a low number of students stepping up and voicing their opinions.

"Change is going to take everybody collectively," she said.

Although a number of problems persist in the school under the current conditions, Drake expects repairs to the building to be done over the next semester.

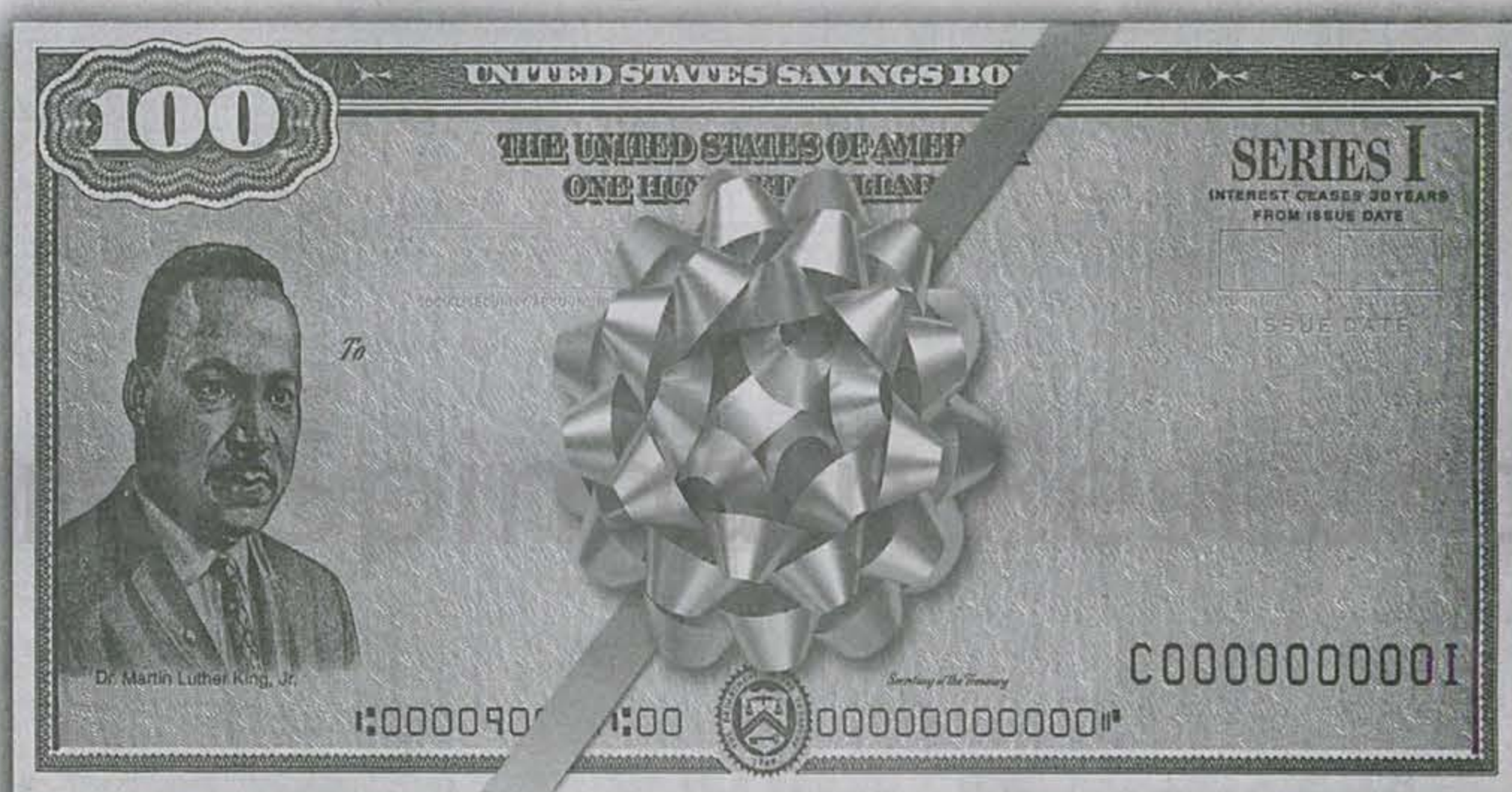
During her State of the School of Divinity address on Sept. 19, she said she will soon contact Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), if the problems in the building are not addressed soon.

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www.thehilltoponline.com



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WILL BE SENT.
NO JUNKMAIL OR SPAM WILL BE SENT!!**

Be among the first to be notified in case of an emergency situation at Howard University. The University has contracted the services of an Emergency Notification Alert provider to send you a text message, a telephone call, or an email message to your alternate email accounts in case of an emergency. In order for this program to be effective, we need you to register. Registration is simple, and will only take about 30 seconds.

REGISTER TODAY!!

AlertHU

Howard University
vs.
Winston Salem State University

Football Game
Saturday, September 29, 2007
Greene Stadium

Football Ticket Distribution

When: Wednesday & Thursday,
September 26th & 27th,

Where: Lower Level, Cramton Auditorium

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

All students must be validated and
present student
identification card to receive ticket



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37th Annual Legislative Conference

**Washington Convention Center
September 27-29, 2007**

HU SHUTTLE SERVICE FROM MAIN CAMPUS

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---|--------|
| 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM | Rep. Bennie G. Thompson | 2008 and Beyond: A Political Agenda for Emerging Leaders | 201 |
| 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM | Rep. Alove Hastings | Expanding Health Care to All in Need: Potential of Community Health Centers Program | 145-A |
| 1:00 PM - 2:50 PM | Rep. Diane E. Watson | African American Entrepreneurship in South Africa: The Challenges, Successes and the Future | 207-B |
| 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Rep. Kendrick Meek | Stolar Childhoods: How Youth Violence Destroys Lives and Fractures Communities | 145-B |
| 1:00 PM - 2:50 PM | Edoluhus Towns | Health Information Technology and Reducing Health Disparities | 140-A |
| 1:00 PM - 2:50 PM | Rep. Maxine Waters | Mandatory Minimum Sentencing | 140-B |
| 1:00 PM - 4:50 PM | Rep. David Scott | Educating Our Children: Developing the Foundation for Global Competitiveness | 143-C |
| 1:00 PM - 2:50 PM | Rep. Eljan E. Cummings | Transportation's Role in Emerging Response and Preparedness for Vulnerable Populations | 144-A |
| 1:00 PM - 2:50 PM | Rep. John Lewis | War & Peace: Examining the Culture of Violence Through a Non-Violent Lens | 144-BC |
| 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee | The Language of His Hood: A Way of Life? | 206 |
| 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM | Rep. Bobby Rush | Telecom Braintrust | 143-A |
| 2:00 PM - 4:50 PM | Rep. Donna M. Christensen | Bringing Business, State, and Union Leadership into the Health Disparity Elimination Partnership | 201 |
| 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM | Rep. John Conyers, Jr. | Fixing Our Broken Health Care System: Why We Need "Health Care for All" Now | 208-A |
| 2:00 PM - 5:50 PM | Rep. Henry Davis | Expanding Healthcare Access to All in Need: Community Health Centers Program | 207-A |
| 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM | Rep. Albert Wynn | Minority Business Procurement: Improving, Expanding and Utilizing Opportunities for Contracting with the Federal Government | 145-B |
| 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Rep. Gregory Meeks | Wall Street in the Black | 147-B |
| 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Rep. Barbara Lee | The Faith Community: Leadership and Challenges in Combating HIV/AIDS | 208-B |
| 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM | Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson | Auto Safety Brain Trust Room | 145-A |
| 4:00 PM - 5:50 PM | Rep. Yvette Clarke | Homeland Security, Terrorism and the Caribbean | 143-B |
| 4:00 PM - 5:50 PM | Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton | Is It Time or Not? Can Babies Find Freedom from Self-Promoted Stereotypes? | 144-BC |
| 4:00 PM - 5:50 PM | Rep. Corrine Brown | Underground Railroad Room | 140-A |
| 4:00 PM - 5:50 PM | Rep. Bennie G. Thompson | Contracting w/Dept. of Homeland Security | 140-B |
| 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM | Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones | African American Athletes | 202-A |
| 4:30 PM - 6:25 PM | Rep. Al Green | Equal Pay for Equal Work | 143-A |

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|--|------------|
| 8:00 AM - 12:50 PM | Rep. Sanford Bishop | Veteran's Affairs Braintrust | 140-A |
| 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Rep. Corrine Brown | You Touch The Future | 145-A |
| 8:00 AM - 4:50 PM | Rep. D. Davis | Judiciary Braintrust: | 209-C |
| 8:00 AM - 11:50 AM | Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee | High Gasoline Prices & High Utility Costs: Building Bridges Between the African American Community & America's Energy Industry | 202-A |
| 8:00 AM - 10:50 AM | Rep. John Conyers, Jr. | The Federal Budget: Tough Choices Ahead | 143-B |
| 8:00 AM - 11:50 AM | Rep. Robert C. Scott | Education and Skills Needed for the Digital Innovation Age: Industry Speaks Out | 144-A |
| 8:00 AM - 11:50 AM | Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson | Demanding Opportunity and Justice for African American Healthcare Providers | 207-A |
| 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Rep. Donna M. Christensen | Foreign Affairs on Africa Braintrust | 207-B |
| 8:00 AM - 4:50 PM | Rep. Donald Payne | The Iraq War: Costs, Lessons, and the Future | 144-BC |
| 8:00 AM - 11:50 AM | Rep. Charles B. Rangel | Black Women Surviving Unmet Mental Health Needs | Room 201 |
| 8:00 AM - 11:50 AM | Rep. Julia Carson | Emerging Leaders Empowerment Series: What's At Stake in 2008? - A Dialogue with Senator Hillary Clinton | Ballroom G |
| 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM | Rep. Kip Kendrick/Rep. K. Meek | Emerging Leaders Empowerment Series: Nat. Education Foundation | 143-C |
| 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Nat. Education Foundation | The New Underground: Undercutting the Old Boys Network for Creative and Financial Freedom | 143-C |
| 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Rep. James E. Clyburn | Environmental Justice Braintrust: Federal Efforts Through Enforcement of Civil Rights | 143-B |
| 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Rep. William Jefferson | Recovery By Whom, For Whom Room | 143-A |
| 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Rep. G. K. Butterfield | Poverty in Rural America-Ending the Destructive Cycle | 209-B |
| 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Rep. Artur Davis | Breaking the Glass Ceiling: The Future of Black Politics | 209-A |
| 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Rep. Maxine Waters | Optimizing Opportunities for Minority Women Investment Businesses in the Government Financial Services Industry | 145-B |
| 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM | DC Writers Corps, Karibu Books, Say It Loud, ULL | Emerging Leaders Empowerment Series: Getting Back Boys to Read: ALC Book Pavilion | 147-AB |
| 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Sen. Barack Obama | A Community Call to Action! | 147-AB |
| 1:30 PM - 2:50 PM | Rep. Diane E. Watson | Climate Change: Are We Ready? | 147-AB |
| 1:30 PM - 4:50 PM | Rep. Maxine Waters | 'Not Just Hollywood Actors... But Social Activists Too!' | 145-B |
| 1:30 PM - 4:50 PM | Rep. Elijah E. Cummings | Young, Gifted and Black | 201 |
| 1:30 PM - 4:50 PM | Rep. Gregory Meeks | Terrorism at Home: Breaking Gangs' Grip on Black Communities | 202-A |
| 1:30 PM - 4:50 PM | Rep. Gregory Meeks | Franchise & Finance - How to Choose and Fund | 143-C |
| 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM | Soc'y for Human Res. Mgt. | Emerging Leaders Empowerment Series: Being Black: Emerging Perspectives for Emerging Leaders | 208 |
| 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM | Rep. John Conyers, Jr. | The Decline in African American Enrollment in Law, Medicine, and Professional Schools | 144-A |
| 2:00 PM - 4:50 PM | Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones | It's Not to Win It: Winning Campaign Strategies | 144-BC |
| 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM | Rep. Jesse L. Jackson Jr. | Voting Braintrust - Issues Beyond Voting Rights Act Extensions | 140-B |
| 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM | Rep. Melvin Watt | Support Our Children: From Poverty to Prosperity | 143-A |
| 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM | Rep. Chaka Fattah | 'We Don't Do February' The Integration of African American History into the K-12 Social Studies Curriculum - Practice and Progress | 209-B |
| 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM | Rep. Donald Payne | Black Love: V. Lowin' the Skin in the Imagery and the Color Complex in the 21st C. | 140-A |
| 2:00 PM - 4:50 PM | Rep. Bobby Rush | Unleash our Power to Effect Positive Change: A Strategic Leadership Training - Breakout discussions: The Bayou and Black America, Critical Updates on Jobs and Humane Katrina, 2008 and Beyond | 144-BC |
| 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM | Rep. Danny Davis | Ex-Offender's - Re-Entry: Is There Home After Prison? | 209-A |
| 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Rep. Hark Johnson | Making Education a Priority Again Among Black Males | 143-A |
| 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Rep. Gwen Moore | The Class War in Black America | 140-A |
| 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Rep. Keith Ellison | Save the Goats: Promoting Prosperity for Working Families | 140-B |

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|--------|
| 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM | Rep. Hark Johnson | Emerging Leaders Empowerment Series: For students and young professionals. See ALC website for more information on panel topics and speakers: www.alc2007.com | 144-BC |
| 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Rep. Hark Johnson | Emerging Leaders Empowerment Series: For students and young professionals. See ALC website for more information on panel topics and speakers: www.alc2007.com | 144-BC |
| 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Rep. Hark Johnson | Emerging Leaders Empowerment Series: For students and young professionals. See ALC website for more information on panel topics and speakers: www.alc2007.com | 144-BC |
| 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Rep. Hark Johnson | Emerging Leaders Empowerment Series: For students and young professionals. See ALC website for more information on panel topics and speakers: www.alc2007.com | 144-BC |

BUS SCHEDULE

Departures from Rankin Chapel to Convention Center (L Street) every hour ON THE HALF HOUR

Returns from the Convention Center (L Street) to Rankin Chapel every hour ON THE HOUR

Thursday, Sept. 27 9:00 am-9:30 pm

Friday, Sept. 28 8:00 am-6:30 pm

Saturday, Sept. 29 10:00 am-3:30 pm

REGISTRATION IS FREE

**Schedule subject to change. Check for room locations and new events at registration.*

EVENT COORDINATOR: Dr. Jeanne Maddox Toungara, Dept. of History, Howard University, Douglass Hall, 3rd floor; Tel: (202) 806-8815; E-mail: jtoungara@howard.edu

EVENT CONTRIBUTOR (Design & Production): Mark A. Bartley, Dept. of Art, Howard University

Millions to Have Autism in Eight Years

BY ALEESA MANN
Staff Writer

By 2015, four million Americans will have autism. This neurological disorder has grown from 10 to 17 percent each year.

Autism has picked up since the '50s, according to the president of the D.C. chapter of the American Autism Society (ASA), Sondra Cunningham. In 1943, autism only affected one in 40,000. By the 1950s, it grew to one in 20,000. By 2004, it was estimated that one in every 166 children has autism.

The Center for Disease Control reported that by 2012 one in seven children will be affected by the disorder.

"We think that one of the reasons there has been an increase in autism is because there has been a lot more awareness about autism," she said. "In the past it was not being diagnosed early on. Parents are now more willing to accept the diagnosis, and children are not being swept into the closet, or put in institutions."

While there is no evi-



Eric Campos - The State/KRT (MCT)

Brian Jones (center) is one of 1.5 million Americans with autism.

dence to support a cause for autism, heredity plays a role. Parents who give birth to a child with autism have an increased risk of having another child with the disorder.

There is also a concern that exposure to toxins and vaccinations may increase the chances of giving birth to an autistic child.

There is no medical test for autism, but a diagnosis can be given through observation.

There is also no cure for autism. Children who are diagnosed at an early age receive the best prognosis.

By six years old, symp-

oms like tantrums, difficulties with social interaction, delayed speech development and aloofness develop.

The effects of autism can range from mild to severe impairment of social skills or obsessive behavior, aggressive or self-injurious behavior, and a very small minority of autistic people display savant characteristics.

A variety of therapies have been introduced to reduce the effects of autism, but there is no one treatment proven to be 100 percent effective. Many of the therapies focus on rehabilitating

social and behavioral skills. Ritalin is also prescribed to reduce the effects of autism.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act guarantees individuals between the ages of three and 21 affected with autism, a free education tailored to their unique needs. However it is hard to find the resources needed to support autistic adults.

"At age 22 you are no longer entitled to a free and appropriate education and those clients are then served by Medicaid, a lot of them are in day programs supported by Medicaid," Cunningham said. "There is a crisis in services for adults with autism and it varies from one place to another. I've known parents who have moved from the District to Montgomery county because when the government starts to crack down on budgets it seems the budget for health care and other services are cut first. There are a lot of shortages for adults with autism."

For the past 30 years the D.C. chapter of the ASA has been working to provide support and awareness for autism.



Darius Lyles - Staff Photographer

Some cities are targeting baggy pants with fines and penalties.

Officials Try to Ban Baggy Pants

BY AMARIS NOBLE
Editorial Assistant

In many secondary schools, bandanas, midrifis and mini-skirts are major not allowed. However, certain government officials have assumed the role of fashion police by proposing anti-baggy dress codes.

Getting dressed will be more than a notion for many residents of Atlanta, in three towns in Louisiana and in Trenton, N.J., as council members propose laws banning outfits that publicly display undergarments.

City councils in select Louisiana towns and in Dallas pioneered anti-sagging proposals beginning in August 2007. But in Atlanta, councilman Clarence T. Martin has raised the bar and gained worldwide recognition.

"I woke up one morning and got an e-mail from Germany opposing the amendment," said Dexter Chambers, communications director for Atlanta's city council. "There is definitely a demographical divide on the proposal. Youth oppose it and most adults support it, but councilman Martin welcomes any debates and encourages youth involvement."

Chambers explained that Martin proposes to amend the city's existing indecency laws to include undergarments in the section that outlaws public sex acts and the exposure or fondling of genitals in public.

Unlike the "anti-sag ordinance" of Delcambre, La., which fines violators \$500 or charges them with six months in jail, Atlanta fines will not exceed \$100 and eight hours of community service. Guidelines determining appropriate dress are left up to Atlanta law enforcement officers.

Martin organized the Sagging Pants Task Force (SPTF), consisting of Atlanta's academic community, college students from Morehouse College and concerned residents. SPTF will address conversation over the ordinance and determine whether or not the amendment is necessary in Atlanta.

While council members say that the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is the only organization to express concerns regarding racial profiling, many believe that Martin's initiatives are covert forms of discrimination.

"It's the dumbest thing I've ever heard," said senior sports medicine major Joseph Claiborne. "Of course the law is general, but everyone can figure out that it pertains mainly to black males. This is just another example of the government limiting black people."

Senior public relations major Devon Miller deems Martin's efforts un-American. "This is 2007 and America allows so much freedom of expression, from gay-pride parades to legal Nazi Web sites, that telling people how to dress would be a societal set-back."

Atlanta's Code of Ordinances states that the underwear showcase style "is becoming a major concern for communities, cities and states

around the country" and "an epidemic among our youth."

Martin's proposal was not initially motivated by the actions of other cities. As a black male, educators within the African-American community comfortably approached Martin with a pressing problem. Baggy pants seemingly caused saggy attitudes among students.

The saggy fashion originated from prison where inmates in one-size-fits-all uniforms were forced to wear their pants beltless. Chambers is astounded that many young individuals proudly emulate something that began in jail.

"I understand freedom of expression and [the proposal] is not knocking our youth," he explained. "It's asking youth to think about what they are doing."

Chambers explained that, as a consultant for a company that sends children to college, Martin understands issues that are affecting the youth and how society perceives them based on their appearance marks one of those issues.

Don Imus' remarks and anti-"N-Word" rallies have sparked heated debates concerning the perception of the hip-hop culture. Both Chambers and Martin insist that "this is not just a black issue."

However, the city council of Atlanta links sloppy dress to the same attitude that excuses the denigration of black women in music.

"Where are the standards of society?," Chambers asked. "Too often many artists, no matter how proud we are of their success, use lyrics and dress in a way that does not represent all of our community."

Although speech communication major Devaughn Harris said that city councils should be more creative when attempting to motivate residents to tidy up, he respects the logic behind the code-crack-down.

"Some people actually do get offended when males especially have pants hanging to their ankles," he said. "However, if the goal is to draw attention to an issue, why not go about it in a way that doesn't have financial costs or possibly put more black men behind bars?"

Even if the Atlanta city council deems Martin's proposal a flop, the legislation is primarily designed to inspire youth of all races and backgrounds to neaten up and carry themselves respectfully.

Martin plans to hold public hearings at local churches, address civil rights groups and neighborhood organizations to deliver this message of encouragement and garner support for the proposal.

"If we can get just one kid to pull up his or her pants, pushing to amendment would have been worth it," Chambers said.

After approval of the amendment on Sept. 17, the SPTF has 180 days to present a finalized recommendation to the Atlanta city council. Council members are expected to make a decision in six months.

Republicans to Discuss Black Issues

Tavis Smiley's presidential forum visits Morgan State University tonight. A panel will ask the candidates about the 10 Covenants of black America that Smiley outlined in his book. Only five of the nine will be in Baltimore.

| | Health Care | Iraq War | Immigration | Taxes |
|---------------|--|--|---|---|
| Sam Brownback | Wants more consumer choice and control, and real competition | No clear answer as to when, if ever, to pull out of Iraq | Considers immigration his top priority | Pledges to oppose all tax increases |
| Rudy Giuliani | Wants a "market driven" expansion of affordable coverage | Must win the war on terrorism, but has no clear pull out date | Wants to close the border to illegal immigrants | Fan of cutting taxes. Has cut taxes 23 times as New York City mayor. |
| Mike Huckabee | Encourages private sectors to reduce health care costs | Withdrawal would have "serious strategic consequences" | Believes in deporting all illegal immigrants | Wants to eliminate all federal income and payroll taxes |
| Duncan Hunter | More insurance competition. Opposes government-run health programs | Iraq War on right track and has no intention of pulling out soon | Introduced Secure Fence Act recently passed by the Senate | Supports economic growth through revenue, not increased taxes |
| John McCain | No clear stance on healthcare | Does not intend to pull out, and plans to send more troops to Iraq | Supports legislation to secure the borders | Wants to keep marginal tax rates low |
| Ron Paul | Supports legislation to increase FDA's legal powers in healthcare industry | Bring troops home and focus on securing the homeland | It is a federal responsibility to protect the borders | Lowering taxes will benefit everyone by creating more jobs |
| Mitt Romney | Extend health insurance to all Americans through market reforms | Believes in continuing until radicals and extremists are defeated | "Turning off the magnet" like sanctuary cities and employment | Opposes a tax hike and thinks that raising taxes hurts working people |
| Tom Tancredo | Bring small businesses together to access lower cost insurance | Supports the Nov. benchmark an actual timetable for disengagement | Opposition to illegal immigration issues is campaign's main focus | Should be replace income tax system by a flat tax or national sales tax |
| Fred Thompson | Increase competition among insurers and reduce costs for employers. | Wants to stand firm in Iraq | Must secure borders to remain sovereign | Wants to lower the tax system and simplify it |

Compiled by Jada Smith, Staff Writer

FROM THE MOTHERLAND ... TO THE MECCA

BY BRITNEY MONCREASE
Contributing Writer

Some say that the United States is a melting pot where many people from with different cultural practices live.

As true as this is, Howard University is a melting pot in itself with students from almost all continents.

A sophomore English major Olubunmi Titilayo Hidi Audifferen is from Suffolk, Va., but she still embraces her Yoruba Nigerian heritage.

While both of her parents are from West Africa, her family is quite diverse.

"My brother and sister are both Ibo along with their father. I recently found out that my grandfather is French," Audifferen said.

Although she may not know the entire history behind her name, she has some knowledge of the names Olubunmi and Hidi.

"My name means 'God's gift,'" she said.

Names are a way that Audifferen's mother keeps Yoruba traditions in the family. She also cooks traditional foods like plantains. "No one knows how to make it like we do," she said.

Another part of the Yoruba culture is the language. Her

mother speaks the language and tries to teach it to her children.

"When I was younger I knew the language, but I kind of forgot it. I can take context clues," Audifferen said.

She said that she lived in Nigeria when she was younger and remembers enjoying living there.

"I like it there a lot. I plan on going back because I have family there and there's more I would like to remember."

Instilled in Audifferen's brother, Chinedu, is the love of the culture. Audifferen explains that her brother no longer goes by his name Patrick, but prefers his name Chinedu.

"My brother tries to help me learn more about the culture since I haven't been there since I was younger," she said.

"I call myself a Nigerian American because I like that I know where I'm from. Even though I was born here, I will never make that the whole of me."



Black Designers Missing From Grand Finale

BY KENDRA DESROSIERS
Contributing Writer

Urban fashion has developed into a very lucrative industry employing many great black designers for brands like Rocawear, Sean John and Baby Phat, but as urban publications increasingly gravitate towards high fashion collections the focus on black talent depreciates.

Few black designers like Tracy Reese and Ann Lowe have ventured into the realm of high fashion and succeeded. For many aspiring black designers financial and bigotry hurdles prevent them from reaching the top and often they find themselves working for a more successful white designer like Giorgio Armani or Calvin Klein.

"Ann Lowe is a very important designer," said junior fashion merchandizing major Alexandria Franklin. "She designed Jackie Kennedy's wedding dress, and she doesn't get a lot of credit for it. A lot of people don't recognize that she designed it especially because of the fact that when Jackie Kennedy was talking to a newspaper and they quoted her about her dress she just said an African-American designer designed it."

Black designer Patrick Robinson, former design director for Armani is arguably the man behind Armani's success.

Robinson designed for Armani

for five years. Robinson later worked for various designers such as Anne Klein and Perry Ellis.

However, when he launched his self-titled line it did not garner much attention.

"He was amazing," said Haitian designer Dayanne Danier, "and he moved to Paris to design for a larger design[er] [Patrick Kelly] but he was known for his work with Perry Ellis I believe. He made it big again."

Robinson, a Parsons graduate, currently serves as the vice president of design for Gap Inc. and debuted a GO International collection for Target this past summer however, there has been no word on whether he would make another attempt at his own line in the future.

Danier, a designer for Phillip Van Heusen (PVH), an apparel company that licenses brands such as Calvin Klein, Perry Ellis and BCBG Max Azria, has worked for PVH for a few years and has yet to see an increase in black designers under the company.

"I do not have too many black counterparts and my company is big," Danier said. "There is only one other black female designer on my floor, so two out of about twenty. I feel the climb to the top is harder and there physically are not a lot of us in this industry which keep the statistics low."

Many outside of the fashion industry are oblivious to the few black de-

signers in the market and attribute this to the mainstream's western slant.

"I mean I don't know of any," said sophomore public relations major Ashley Tannehill. "If you look at fashion in terms of the secret society that it is, it's really western and it's really white; European driven."

"I think that there are few designers in black fashion because the market is so minimal," said sophomore film production major Christopher Holliman. "There's almost a fear if you step to that point who's going to buy it, who's going to wear it and if you can't make it accessible to the average person then there's really no point because you're not going to make a profit."

The lack of financial backing deters the success of black designers. Finding support from corporations and banks for black entrepreneurs can be equally difficult.

"There aren't many black designers designing," Franklin said. "When you're designing a clothing line you have to be conscious of the money that you're spending for materials, for samples, for staff workers, for your rent. [Therefore] you have to have some type of financial [assistance]."

"My biggest challenge is not only getting my stuff on people, but also getting it on black celebrities," Danier said, who plans to launch her own high fashion line in the near future. "We do

not support ourselves enough for the industry to even recognize us. Look at all the top black actors and actresses and see the names they are wearing...then you will see what I mean."

Fashion labels such as Dolce & Gabbana, Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Versace have developed relationships with A-list black celebrities and have collaborated on various endorsements.

However, the work of black designers is rarely seen on the red carpet unless it appears under a larger, often white and European guise.

For most black businesses, the road to triumph is jarring and long and in order to reach success they must look within the black community for support before challenging America's unforgiving mainstream.

While there are several issues limiting black entrepreneurship in the fashion industry, it is apparent that without the support of the black community the number of black designers will continue to decrease and eventually disappear.



Patrick Robinson has designed for Armani, Anne Klein and Perry Ellis but has yet to gain mainstream recognition with his own collection despite producing a limited edition line for Target.

Keyshia Cole's Second LP Proves She is 'Just Like You'

BY JC DURRAH
Staff Writer

In mid-2005, Keyshia Cole eased her way onto the R&B scene with her debut LP, "The Way It Is." Although the project's first single, "I Changed My Mind," was not an instant hit, Cole found success with the album's remaining singles, "I Just Want It (To Be Over)," "I Should Have Cheated," and the popular ballad "Love."

Keyshia Cole's sophomore effort, "Just Like You" picks up where "The Way It Is" left off. It indirectly showcases the singer's efforts, and at many times fails at mirroring R&B veteran Mary J. Blige. This time around, Cole's image is a bit more chic and ladylike than before, but it does not seem as though her musical ventures have transformed as much as her look.

The chart-topping single, "Let It Go," which was produced by and also features rapper/producer Missy Elliot and Lil' Kim, opens the album and is definitely one of the album's stand-out tracks. The song delivers the cliché, but very relevant, message to women that they should end relationships that prove to be unfulfilling and troublesome. There is no doubt that female listeners will enjoy this tune, and even take its advice and let go of dead-end relationships.

The LP continues with the street and infectious, "Didn't I Tell You," which features rapper Too Short. While this song is probably one that will be a hit and continuously played in clubs around the U.S., it still follows the



Photo Courtesy of Geffen Records

On Tuesday, Keyshia Cole released her sophomore effort "Just Like You" that includes the chart-topping single, "Let It Go" featuring Missy Elliot and Lil' Kim.

exact same story as the album's lead single, an unhealthy relationship. The difference here, is that the singer is warning her partner that she is going to go out with her girlfriends in an attempt to retaliate against him for acting up. Repetitious themes seem to be a problem on this album, as Cole seldom strays from the age-old story of a love affair gone bad. One may argue that these are merely the types of songs that Cole has always sang, but in the event of releasing a sophomore album, an artist should showcase a little more versatility. There should be growth. It's almost as if she just recorded a new batch of songs to release without thinking about other topics that listeners may be interested in.

Another noteworthy track on the album includes the title track, "Just Like You." This track serves as the singer's attempt

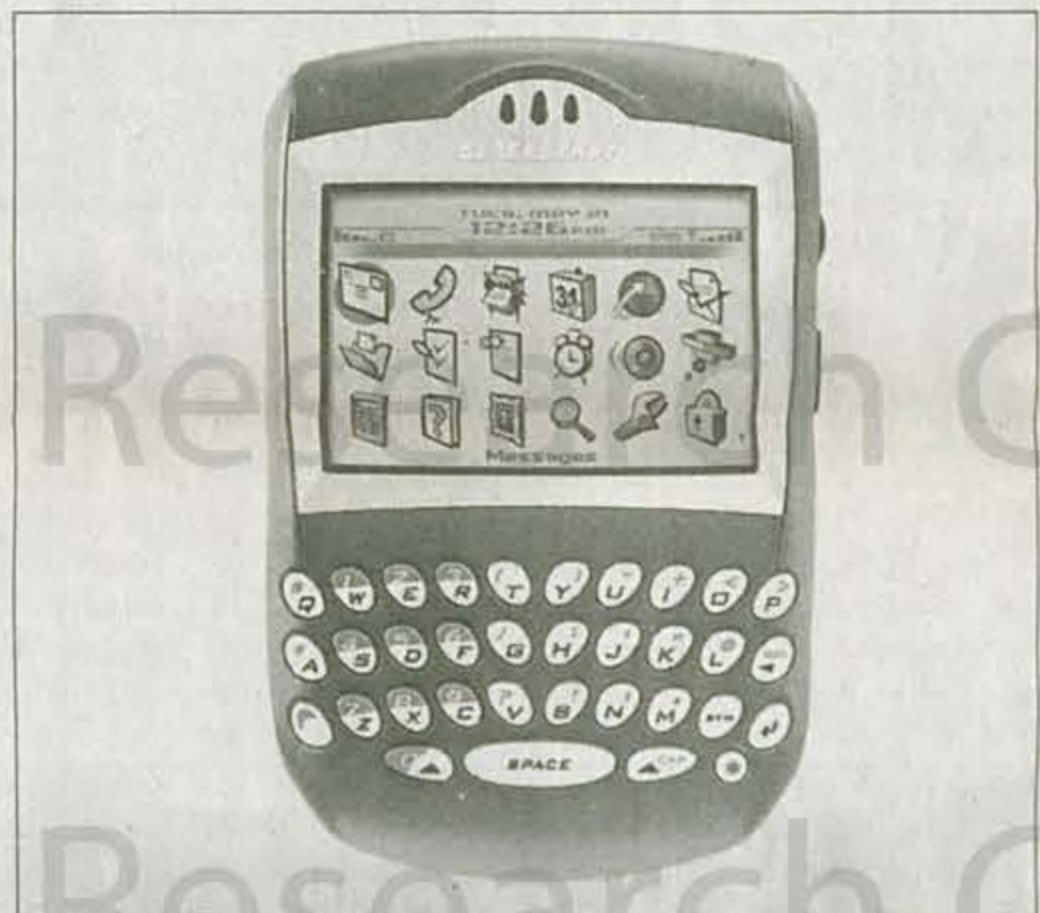
to explain to the world that she is the same as anyone else and has problems that the average person deals with from day to day.

Other tracks include the "Let It Go" remix featuring rapper Young Dro, a duet with soul singer Anthony Hamilton and the summer smash "Last Night" which can also be found on hip-hop mogul Diddy's summer release "Press Play."

Cole delivers an album that is best classified as mediocre due to limited content, poor songwriting and the singer's pitchy delivery. While it is true that Cole is immensely talented, it is also true that, at times, she simply goes sharp and/or flat. "Just Like You" is an album that one may enjoy, but also one that he or she may quickly become bored with.

Grade: C+

Deal of the Week



T-Mobile Blackberry Curve \$249.99

On Monday, T-Mobile released the Blackberry Curve, the latest Blackberry design from wireless communications company Research In Motion (RIM). The Curve retails at \$249.99 with a two-year contract. The suggested retail price for the phone is \$449.99, but there is an instant discount of \$150 at the point of purchase and an additional \$50 is taken off with a mail-in rebate. The device comes equipped with all of the usual suspects in terms of features with the addition of a two megapixel camera and a micro SD memory slot for multimedia files, data and more. The Blackberry Curve is a clear upgrade from its the Blackberry Pearl and the Blackberry 8800.

Information courtesy of T-Mobile.

No Luck For Chuck In #2 Box Office Premiere

BY SIMONE PRINGLE
Staff Writer

After a summer filled with blockbusters, sequels and the end of several trilogies, the fall movie season kicked off right with the Dane Cook and Jessica Alba romantic comedy, "Good Luck Chuck."

Named one of Time magazine's "100 Most Influential People," Cook plays "Casanova-esque" dentist, Charlie Logan.

In the movie, a goth girl he refused to kiss at a party when he was 10 years old hexed him, declaring that women he sleeps with and breaks up with would find their true love with the very next guy they date. This leaves Charlie, now known to women in the city as

"Good Luck Chuck," lonely and unhappy. Charlie seems to be unable to find "Mrs. Right," to build a deep connection with her and to tell her he loves her, until cute, accident-prone penguin expert Cam Wexler skips into his life at his ex-girlfriend's wedding.

After discovering his "curse" at the wedding, Charlie thinks sleeping with women to help them find their true love is morally wrong, but with the help of his friend Stu, actor Dan Fogler from "Balls of Fury," Charlie decides to help women find "Mr. Right."

When clumsy Cam calls with a dental emergency after falling into the penguin pool and chipping a tooth, Charlie seizes the opportunity to date the gorgeous penguin fanatic.

One date, the first kiss and a few Internet chats and phone calls later, Charlie discovers that Cam could be "the

one," but also notices that their relationship is starting to escalate physically. Refusing to sleep with her, yet unwilling to let her go, Charlie does his best to keep Cam's interest.

After a somewhat sweet and semi-stalkerish incident with roses, a male quartet singing Beyonce's "Crazy in Love" and Charlie dressed like a penguin, Cam decides that they need some space. Afraid he's going to lose her, Charlie tries his best to be as sweet as possible and still respect her wishes.

Charlie is likeable, sweet and morally sound, most of his humor is in response to his sidekick and best friend Stu's behavior. Portraying Alba as a klutz added to the film's humorous aspect, but at times the audience might feel as if they can expect Alba's clumsiness, that it feels semi "on purpose" to create comedic effect and is not purely accidental.

Unfortunately, much like his co-medic stand up act, Cook's "Good Luck Chuck" is not family friendly. It's more suited for girls' night in, co-ed sleepovers, and things of the like, due to numerous sexually explicit scenes built in for humor purposes. These scenes take away a little of the respectability of the movie, making it seem crude and awkward.

The plot lacks depth, and focuses more on Cam's love of penguins than on the characterization of the main characters. The movie portrays Charlie as the typical bachelor, but it also makes him seem as if all he does is work, walk into his apartment, sleep with random, desperate women and help Cam out of her many mishaps.

Despite the cliché ending, the movie concludes fairly well with a touch of originality on an overused plot.

"Good Luck Chuck" is a good

idea for a dinner and a movie type date, but save it for the fifth or sixth date to avoid awkward situations.

Grade: C+

Good Luck Chuck
Showtimes

Regal Gallery Place
707 7th Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

12:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m.
5:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
10:00 p.m.



Marcus Bird - Cartoonist

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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Candidates Pass On Opportunity

This evening, Morgan State University in Baltimore will play host to a monumental political event which could influence the likelihood of a republican presidential candidate being elected into office in 2008. The All-American Forum is the second event moderated by Tavis Smiley in a series of discussions where presidential candidates in each party are asked questions pertaining to people of color. The candidates share their answers in front of a predominantly minority audience as well as a panel of journalists of color. The forum is set to air from Baltimore at 9 p.m. Eastern time on PBS as well as the network's Web site.

Many can recall the same event hosted by Smiley at Howard in Cramton Auditorium June 28, 2007 with the democratic candidates presenting their stances on issues to be addressed in the minority community. Among the panel of democrats were campaign frontrunners Sen. Hillary Clinton, Sen. Barack Obama and former Sen. John Edwards. The presence of the three most prominent democratic candidates let the audience in Cramton as well as those behind television or computer screens know that the Democratic Party takes the concerns of people of color seriously. Or at least it appears that way for now.

However, the headlines

of the Republican Party are expected to be missing in action during tonight's forum in Baltimore, both citing scheduling conflicts as the reason for their absence.

Former New York City Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, former Massachusetts Governor, Mitt Romney, former Sen. Fred Thompson (Tenn.) and Sen. John McCain (Ariz.) have declined their invitations to the event which could have major implications in voting trends during the election. Many, including additional republican leaders, have seen this

Our View:
Bush, Republicans don't care about Black people.

as a critical misjudgment on the parts of both candidates and believe the Republican Party will be at an even greater disadvantage when people of color take to the polls in the 2008 election.

In a PBS press release, moderator Tavis Smiley said, "It is a missed opportunity for the presumptive front-runners. Their timing is truly unfortunate, given that this forum will take place 48 hours after a historic celebration of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock, an event to be attended by President Bush and President Clinton."

In the minds of the two presidential candidates, their ab-

sence may very well be due to scheduling conflicts. But to people of color, it may seem like another step backward by the Republican Party and an authoritative dismissal of the opinions and concerns of the minority community.

Adding fuel to the negative reception of republicans by people of color, all top republican candidates except McCain declined to debate on Univision, the most watched Spanish language television network in America. Additionally, according to CBS News, Giuliani, Romney and McCain have also been no shows at various functions sponsored by the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials and the National Urban League.

No matter what the excuse is, the candidates should have considered what their decisions appeared to be in the eyes of people of color instead of placing more importance on events that do not pertain to serving the general American public.

Any republican presidential candidate missing a prime opportunity to address potential voters who are already skeptical of their party shows a lack of concern regarding minority votes and minority issues. Their decisions make it appear as if the candidates don't even want minority votes, and it is up to the discerning public to decide what to do about it.

I am not one of those. I will not bow down to celebrity, yours or anyone else's. When I met you at the White House in July 2006 I found you to be a pleasant man, convivial, charming and intelligent. I still believe that you are all those things. But America does not need another emperor. The world does not need anymore violence and terror at the hands of the U.S. military and the CIA and its legion of goons. What we need is peace, concern for a hurting world and the willingness to reach the poor and powerless and lift them up wherever they are.

We do not need another emperor, Mr. Obama. And your good looks, Ivy League education and silver tongue count for precious little. You stand on the side of injustice and you buttress a system of oppression with your star power. As a student of justice, I stand with the oppressed, which means I stand in opposition to Pharaoh. That includes you, Mr. Obama. That is why I have no interest in hearing you speak; I am too busy feeding the hungry and clothing the naked to waste precious time and resources feeding your bloated, privileged, celebrity ego.

John-Anthony Burchall

Perspective

Obama Could Offer More Of The Same As U.S. President

On Friday, presidential candidate Barack Obama will grace the hallowed campus of our university with his armed entourage. Cramton Auditorium will be full to overflowing. Our intellectually incurious and celebrity obsessed student body will anoint Mr. Obama as their black messiah. I will not be there. The problem with every presidential race since the dawn of the last century has been its focused and intentional agenda to keep the American public out of politics. Edward Bernays, who headed Woodrow Wilson's committee on public relations was charged with overturning America's pacifist sentiment.

Why? So that President Wilson could send the Marines into Haiti in 1915 and disband the Haitian government. Bernays' slogan of: "Making the World Safe for Democracy" manufactured public consensus in favor of war. The American public supported America's entry into WWI and blessed U.S. military action in the Dominican Republic, Russia, Nicaragua, Cuba and Mexico.

The public relations industry works to control the people's mind through its careful creation of superficial "needs." The same public relations industry that sells soap, perfume and cars, sells us our "choices" during elections.

Mr. Obama's visit to our campus is just one more carefully staged and manufactured PR campaign. It is farce at its best.

President Kennedy sent the Air Force into South Vietnam in 1961 and 600,000 people were killed. Just read the Pentagon Pa-

pers. Saddam Hussein had the full support of the senior Bush administration when he gassed his own people and bombed the Kurds. Turkey got the full support of the Clinton administration when it dropped bombs on the Kurdish people in the 1990s. Bush, Jr. has just continued his daddy's foreign policy under the watchful eyes of recycled Reaganites, Dick Cheney, Paul Wolfowitz and Donald Rumsfeld.

This brings me to presidential candidate Obama. You sir, are already acting like an emperor, complete with your fancy, gun-toting entourage that has been provided for your protection at tax payers' expense. It was the custom of the victorious Roman emperor to send advance heralds proclaiming victory into each conquered land. The claim made was that the new emperor's victory in war would finally usher in peace and prosperity and a new age. In response to this "good news," the conquered people would run out to meet the emperor outside the city and welcome him with joyous celebration. This was known then as the Parousia.

One in eight Americans lives in poverty in this country and 20 percent of these are children. There are 50 million Americans that do not have health insurance. Right here in Washington, D.C., right next to the White House, the political symbol of American might, are some of the most under-funded and under-resourced public schools.

The American government chooses to spend one billion dollars a day to kill Iraqis but cannot muster a few pennies to

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The Hilltop
2251 Sherman Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 806-4724 (Editorial)
(202) 806-4749 (Business)
hilltopbusiness@gmail.com

Now in its 84th year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

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

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

Lady Bison Soccer Drops in USC Conference Opener

BY AVERY GREEN
Contributing Writer

In their first United Soccer Conference (USC) match up in Greene Stadium, the Howard Lady Bison soccer team fell to the Lady Wolverines of Utah Valley State University making them 0-10 this season.

The Lady Bison started the match up with high energy and even higher hopes, to reach their first win of the season, but being one player short on the field made their pursuit more difficult than expected.

"We've definitely stepped it up," said junior forward Natalie Williston for the Lady Bison.

The first half was one of great defense and hustle for the Lady Bison but nonetheless remained scoreless.

The Bison defense put the pressure on the Lady Wolverines. That is until freshman forward for Utah Valley State University, Katey Turner, broke away from the Bison's solid defense to score from the left side, at the 31:43 mark of the game, making the score 1-0.

Coming into the second half of the game, the Lady Bison

remained hopeful.

Their hopes were turned to triumph when sophomore midfielder Aliyah Glenn drove the ball down the left side of the field, swiftly shifting pass the Lady Wolverines' defense, to level the playing field by scoring her first goal of the day making the score 1-1.

The Bison took a major blow when their only goal keeper junior Jessamyn Perkins was forced to sit out for the remainder of the game due to a knee injury with 25:00 minutes remaining. Taking over for Perkins was sophomore player, Samantha Cunningham.

With Cunningham in position as goal keeper, the Bison were short one player on defense. Subsequently, the Lady Wolverines capitalized on the Lady Bison's vulnerable goal post, scoring four unanswered points in the second half.

For the Lady Wolverines, Shantae Adams scored from the middle of the field.

Both Jenni Clough and Lauren Bluth also scored from the Bison's right side, and lastly Lauren Tuerpe scored down the middle in the 76th minute of regulation solidifying their first win of the season for the Lady Wolverines.

Despite her injury Perkins ended the day with four saves, while her replacement, Samantha Cunningham ended with one. For the Lady Wolverines, freshman goal keeper, Hailey Brown ended the day with two saves.

The Lady Bison completed the day with 10 shots opposed to 18 shots attempted by the Lady Wolverines.

The two teams finished tied in corner kicks at 2 while Utah Valley State picked up 10 fouls compared to six by the Lady Bison.

"We had the momentum," Williston said. "But we were down one player on the field since Jessamyn [the goal keeper] got hurt."

With fourteen players officially on the roster, and their only skilled goal keeper, Jessamyn Perkins, out indefinitely with her knee injury, it will be interesting to see how the rest of the Lady Bison soccer season will play out.

"Being on this soccer team is a lot of commitment and hard work," said Lady Bison Chelsea Walton. "People come out for the team then quit because of the workload."

She continued, "Playing on the collegiate level is a lot

of hard work that not many can do."

With only a little over a

week to prepare, the Lady Bison will be taking on the Lady Highlanders of Radford University in

a non-conference match up on Saturday Oct. 6 in Radford, Va.



Oscar Merida IV - Photo Editor

The Lady Bison fell to Utah Valley State University in their first conference game (United Soccer Conference) of the season in Greene Stadium Wednesday afternoon.

Howard Athletic Web Site to Sell Bison Spirit Gear

BY DEAN WATKINS
Contributing Writer

Howard has been known for its fashion and its school spirit among other HBCUs and within the greater college community.

Whether it's the Hampton vs. Howard game or Homecoming, Bison love to show off the fact that they are proud to go to Howard.

This energy and love for the school does not end when you graduate on the yard. It continues on for decades.

If you have visited the Howard-Bison.com recently, you may have seen an ad for "Bison Merchandise Coming Soon."

Alumni and current students are always trying to find new ways to show their Bison love.

So, the athletic department and the Howard University Bookstore (HUB) plan to revamp and update the current athletic apparel sold at the HUB.

The athletic gear will include hoodies, sweat pants, sweat shirts, hats, T-shirts, Polo's and staff shirts that have the Bison logo.

"The new apparel will have a conservative look and represent all 17 athletic programs at Howard," said Dwight Datcher, Howard athletics director.

The look of the apparel will be curtailed toward alumni. However, it will still be fashionable

enough for Howard's current students.

The apparel will be very accessible and the athletic department plans to open up a new section in the bookstore called the "Bison Corner," dedicated to athletic clothing and sports-inspired products. The new clothes will also be able to be purchased on the HUB and the athletic department's Web sites.

"I'm glad the athletic Web site is offering Bison gear online for my alumni family members," said senior classical civilizations major Tiffany Jenkins. "I have ordered Howard Bison gear from the bookstore's Web site before, it was really convenient for the holidays."

The opening of the "Bison Corner" is undisclosed at the moment, but the extended clothing

line should can be purchased online by mid-October.

These new venues provide a much needed source of Bison pride. Freshmen are going to be able to buy a variety of sports gear to cheer on their fellow Bison at sports events, along with upper classmen who are looking for a new look to show their Bison honor.

For those who can't wait to put their hands on some new gear, you can expect to see a street full of vendors and carts selling authentic Howard shirts and hats at our next home football game, in which the Bison will take on Winston-Salem State on Sept. 29.

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 27, 1987

NFL PLAYERS WENT ON STRIKE FOR 24 DAYS TO DEMAND HIGHER MINIMUM SALARIES.

SCOREBOARD

Women's Soccer

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| HU | 1 |
| Utah Valley State | 5 |

UPCOMING GAMES

Men's Soccer @ Home v. James Madison 5 pm

Freshman Transition Profile: Theodore Graham

BY TILISHA BROWN
Contributing Writer

"Quick twitch" is how this new spark of talent, Theodore Graham IV is being described on the field. As a new addition to the Howard Bison football team this season, Graham is impressing the coaching staff and fellow team members.

A native of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., this freshman international business major is transitioning from high school to college quite well academically as well as athletically.

Entering into his first year of his collegiate career and only his second football season of his life, this young athlete is taking on challenges with a "game face" both on and off the field.

New head coach, Carey Bailey, did not hesitate to name Graham as the freshman on the team that has excelled the most this season.

"He has contributed as a true freshman, playing above and beyond what most people would expect a freshman to be capable of," Bailey said.

According to the coach, most people expect and allow for freshmen to make a lot of mistakes as far as not keeping up with the speed of the game and often misjudging the speed and size of opponents.

But working closely with Graham,

he has found that he is much sharper than the average freshman.

"He sees things fast, and can always provide a quick reaction," he said.

Asked whether or not the fact that this is only the young player's second year playing in organized football presents many challenges, the coach adamantly defends Graham's experience.

"Without question, he has come from an excellent football program. In a sense, it is a good thing that this is only his second season because he has not had a chance to pick up bad habits."

Standing 5'10" and weighing in at 160 pounds, Graham has had surprising success holding up his post as defensive back for the Bison this season. With the odds against him, Graham is continuously making contributions to the team at a level that is shocking.

Amid the flood of compliments received this season, this player remains humble and admits that he needs a lot of polishing.

"I need to get bigger and I need to improve my game," he said. "I am only 160 pounds right now, and I don't want my size to hurt me."

Graham is pushing himself to become stronger, mentally and physically.

Honing his craft, Graham is developing his game by taking direction and put-

ting it into action. Bailey describes him as a player that takes every bit of coaching and performs it in its exactness.

Jarrett Burgess, senior defensive end agrees. "I think Graham will add to the great tradition of defensive backs that Howard has put on in the previous years," he said.

According to Graham, the transition from high school to college has been smooth, thus far.

Academically, Graham is comfortable at this point and feels that he has been properly acclimated to the university and the School of Business.

"The only thing that I am not too big on is spending 15 hours in study hall every week," Graham said. "That is definitely something we didn't have to do in high school."

Beginning a collegiate football and academic career is easy to view as a giant at the entry level, but this freshman has exercised great mental and physical strength both on the field and in the classroom.

Coach Bailey gives this advice to the young player in regard to continuing to build his collegiate football career to its maximum potential: "People who usually excel never stop learning. Just like any other occupation, you can't stop learning. The minute you stop learning, you're done."



Photo Courtesy of Theodore Graham

Freshman Theodore Graham has made an impact already with the Bison.