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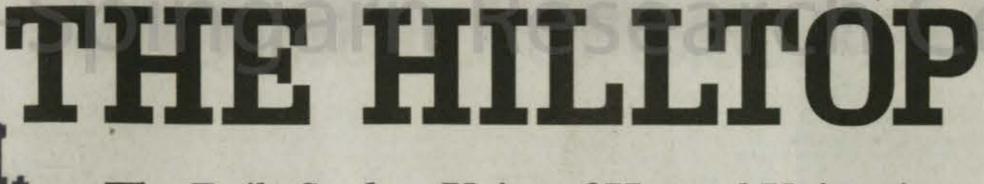
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WEATHER



Tomorrow:





The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 93, NO. 63

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Thursday's Notebook

Established

1924

**BREAKING NEWS** 

ACCORDING TO CNN.COM, A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN CHARLOTTE, N.C. IS SEGREGATING THE ASSAULT OF A 14-YEAR-OLD FEMALE.

METRO

THREE HU ALUMNI MAKE A DIFFERENCE, HOLDING A FUNDRAISER FOR HAITIAN VICTIMS AT A LOCAL LOUNGE.

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LIFE & STYLE

EMPLOYEES AT CERTAIN RETAIL STORES HAVE FOUND A NEW WAY TO STEAL MERCHANDISE.

PAGE 3

### Divinity Library Renamed

Library is renamed for beloved School of Divinity Dean

RYAN G. FOSTER Editorials & Perspectives Editor

"God does not require you to be successful. He only requires you to be faithful. You can trust in the trustworthiness of God."

Recently fallen School of Divinity Dean Dr. Lawrence Neale Jones wrote the lines that delivered a simple and necessary

Wooden planking covered the walls, adorned with Adinkra symbols bearing the definitions of independence, freedom, emancipation, and the power of love. Howard students, staff, and local guests streamed into the Ben Thurman Chapel, steadily filling

Guests were given African hymnbooks, as well as programs bearing the photograph of Jones, a retired dean of the Howard University School of Divinity, as the audience and organist joined in a processional rendition of "Lift Every Voice."

Last night, the School of Divinity held a memorial service geared toward dedicating the

school's library to Jones' memory and remembering the rich legacy of scholarship, service, and faith he committed to the School of Divinity while serving as Dean from 1975 until 1991.

Current School of Divinity Dean Dr. Alton B. Pollard III offered a statement of occasion to the audience directly following the processional.

"Tonight we would like to give thanks to the life of Dr. Jones, and to his ongoing dedication," Pollard offered to the audience. "We are here to celebrate his devotion to African American religious studies, acute Thomas. statesmanship, and most of all, his mandate, and his mission."

He continued to share his heartfelt remembrance with the audience, referencing Jones' work as his time as dean of the school, and concluding his presentation by describing Jones as one of the most "loved and beloved" members of the School of Divinity family.

Remarks and reflections were also made by several other School of Divinity staff, as well

as commentary by the Dean of Virginia at Norfolk John Kennedy and Jones' son, Rodney B. Jones.

Jones spoke to the audience about his father, describing him as a kind and gentle man who he had never heard utter a curse word, speak in anger, or speak ill of another person.

"There really was no separation of the man you saw here, and the man I saw at home," his son said.

Several non-School of Divinity students made the trip to northeast for the dedication, including Mr. Howard, Melech

"I really enjoyed the dedication service, especially Dean John Kennedy's remarks," said the senior Communication and Culture major. "His remarks were very heartfelt and real. You don't always get something to take away from memorial services, but he gave good words about life and Dr. Jones' mission - things we can take as leaders and Howard students and use to make the world a little better."



Riley Wilson - Staff Writer

Jasmine Hill, Junior marketing major, asks a question at CITI, a financial services

### School of 'B' Students Get a Head Start

**RILEY WILSON** Staff Writer

The U.S. unemployment rate may be unchanged and inflation may still be on the rise, but for many students in the School of Business there is still hope.

Second semester was kicked off with a rush in the School of Business as students of the Executive Leadership Honors Program (SBEL) traveled on an all expense paid trip to New York City.

Sponsored by JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs, CITI, Bank of America, UBS and The Walter Kaitz Foundation, more than 75 students were able to indulge in a week of informative programs and networking sessions with the companies. Students were able to meet with recruiters, top executives and alumni of the corporations.

Edith Hunt, managing director of Goldman Sachs Human Capital Management, says that Howard University students are valued.

"We have many target universities. Howard is up there among universities like University of Pennsylvania, Harvard and University of Michigan," she said.

"Our relationship has come a long way over the past 12 years. We look forward to continuing to grow it."

Even though many of these companies were a part of the 2008 bank bailout, they still share the same sentiment of wanting premiere Howard students.

The semi-annual SBEL retreat has been in existence for 10 years and runs on corporate sponsorships - not School of Business funds. Carol Henley, creator and Director of the SBEL honors program, says that building relationships is the key to its success.

"It's a part of marketing. You work with the students to present themselves to the companies. Companies want access to top talent so you talk to them about how they will get exclusive access to these students - it is just our sponsors."

The honors program usually travels to London as well, but has recently decided to post-pone the trip. "Its expensive," Henley said. "We decided to hold on to funds until we have more to operate with."

Sheree Jackson, senior international business major, finds these programs beneficial.

> See SBEL, page 3

### One Year Later: Obama Story Goes Right Here **CAMILLE AUGUSTIN** Staff Writer

With the recent earthquake in Haiti, the inaugural anniversary of one of the most popular presidents in United States history may have fallen into the background this week.

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010 marked the first-year anniversary of President Barack Hussein Obama's inauguration.

In a report made by House Spokesman Robert Gibbs, he said Obama did "nothing special" commemorate his first year in office. "It's just a date on the calendar that denotes you've been here a year," he said.

In recent polls, 51 percent of Americans approve of Obama after his first year. Adaeze Onwuzuruike, a sophomore political science major, was not one of those supporters.

"I feel like this is what I predicted," he said. "He hasn't delivered most of his promises.



Photo Courlesy of the United States Senati

President Barack Obama and the Obama Administration celebrated the one-year anniversary of his presidential inauguration on Wednesday.

An example is the war I was happy when he said he was bringing the troops home, but he sent out more troops to Afghanistan." Onwuzuruike said he voted for Republican John McCain in the 2008 election.

According nonpartisan political Web site called Politifact.com, out of 502 campaign promises made by Obama, 91 promises have

> See OBAMA, page 3

### Republican Wins Senate Race

**OLLIE MONTGOMERY** Staff Writer

The Grand Old Party issued a dramatic upset to the Democratic Party when Republican underdogcandidate Scott Brown won a hotly contested senate seat over the heavily favored Democrat Martha Coakley in typically democratic Massachusetts.

Brown, who is a fiscal conservative and a so-called "Washington outsider," will now take over the seat left vacant by the late Ted Kennedy.

"Tonight the independent voice of Massachusetts has spoken," Brown said in his victory speech.

Brownchampionedhimself as a man of the people during the campaign. Taking a swipe at the "Kennedy legacy" in America's political history, he remarked that the Senate seat does not "belong to anyone or political party" but rather the general public.

He also spoke for concerns about smaller government and fiscal restraint in the wake of last year's stimulus package and the

purported \$1 trillion health care

Brown has also pushed for the use of water boarding as an interrogation technique and against a federal cap-andtrade program to reduce carbon emissions. He opposes plans to provide citizenship to illegal immigrants.

Senator-elect Brown will fill the remainder of Ted Kennedy's Senate term, which ends Jan. 3,

> See RACE, page 3

### HU Sees Decline In Student Gov't

TAHIRAH HAIRSTON Campus Editor

Howard student government election season comes around, the General Elections Commission (GEC), which runs the student elections, worries about its shaky start. Even with all the petitions signed and applications due today, there seems to be a lack of concern for the future of undergraduate student government.

According to Whitney Henry, GEC chair, there is only one confirmed prospective slate for Howard University Student (HUSA) executive president and vice president and two slates for undergraduate trustee. Last season, there were two slates for HUSA and four candidates for

undergraduate trustee.

In addition to the high student involvement in the 2009 election season, it also racked up the most voter participation with a 19 percent increase from 2008 and a 39 percent voter participation overall.

Henry said the success of election season revolves around the participation of the candidates because students get to vote for people that are involved or people that they see on campus.

"[I thought] this year when we had the protest and the tuition increase last year there would be more students compelled to be involved in student government," Henry said.

> See GEC, page 3

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### U.S. Looks to Create Quake Detection

BY ALEXIS K BARNES
Business & Technology Editor

Following the surge of earthquakes in Haiti, South America and the West Indies, scientists are trying to hone forecasting techniques.

Carrent technology only has the ability to make successful predictions on certain fault line dangers and focuses more on probability.

CBS News reported in 2008 that United States scientists warned of an impending quake in Port-au-Prince; however, technology currently cannot definitively pinpoint when quakes will strike.

"We cannot predict earthquakes in the way the public would like us to predict earthquakes," Thomas Jordan, director of the Southern California Earthquake Center told CBS.

Southern California is predicted to have a major quake in the near future. It has been 300 years since movement in this part of the San Andreas and scientists have determined there is a 99.7 percent chance of quake striking with a magnitude of 6.7 or greater in the next 30 years.

Senior fashion merchandising major and Inglewood, Calif. native, Geneva Cruz, felt the tremors of the Northridge quake of Los Angeles in 1994 - a magnitude 6.7 earthquake. "It is really scary when you realize the earth is moving beneath you - something usually stable and protective," she said. "I've heard the predictions that Southern California is due for another major quake, but with no definitive date range, there's not much you can do."

Scientists have had little

of earthquakes, cities can plan in advance to fortify buildings and other structures."

While scientists try to improve earthquake detection, most U.S. cities aim at designing buildings to withstand seismic activity, but this is nearly impossible for poorer countries to reinforce their structures.

"The only way to avoid death and destruction in big earthquakes is to build structures with proper seismic-resistant design."

- Sarada Sarma, Imperial College, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering

progress working with hydroelectric activity and tidal movement, but are now studying GPS sensors that gauge if tremors below plates and fault lines lead to quake's on the Earth's surface.

Brittani Moncrease, senior broadcast journalism major hopes the technology is improved and used to strengthen cities.

"This technology does not only need to be used in terms of evacuation," she said.

Moncrease added, "If scientists could accurately determine and pinpoint upcoming locations "The only way to avoid death and destruction in big earthquakes is to build structures with proper seismic-resistant design," said seismology engineer Sarada Sarma of Imperial College London's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

In California, it is state law that hospitals are earthquake-safe.

John Norwood, chief engineer of the VA Hospital in La Jolla, Calif., said the structure is retrofit and able to withstand a 7.2 magnitude earthquake.

"The project took two-and-

a-half years; it's a \$57 million project," Notwood told KGTV News in San Diego.

The 7.0 magnitude quake that struck the capital city of Haiti last Tuesday demolished the city's hospital, presidential palace and United Nations headquarters.

With Haiti ranked the poorest country in the western hemisphere by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the undertaking of seismic-proof retrofitting seems far-fetched.

Sarma warned against overengineering designs to withstand bigger earthquakes because it will end up being too costly.

"They need to try and build them in a way so that they become fail-safe," he told UK's The Engineer magazine. "The structure will fail after an earthquake, but it will fail in a safe way that does not end lives."

Amber Cleaver, senior legal communications major, agrees that this technology could be very useful in warning people in danger and hopes it would be used globally.

"I think it would be very beneficial to give citizens notice in order to evacuate, but many poorer countries can not do this, so I hope even the poorer countries will have access to better structured buildings," she said.

Cleaver added, "The people this technology would help the most are the ones who have the least."

### This Just

In...

- Cell phone carriers in the U.S. have promised to get text donations to Haiti within a week. Verizon, Sprint, Nextel, T-Mobile and AT&T users have surpassed all previous donations via text record raising \$27 million through various organizations and foundations such as The Red Cross.
- New York Times readers will soon be charged for full access starting in 2011. According to the NYT, spokespeople, the move will increase revenue while maintaining advertisers.
- Web 2.0 Suicide Machine has assisted over 1,000 virtual deaths, removing users from social networks since its launch on Dec. 19. It has removed more than 276,000 tweets and ended over 80,500 friendships. Users relinquish their log-in details and are systematically removed from Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, LinkedIn and more.
- Television makers are working on televisions in high-definition that allow users to view video in 3 dimensions. Viewers, equipped with the necessary glasses, can start as soon as June with ESPN's anticipated 3-D World Cup Soccer matches. TVs already equipped with high definition only need a software update while older models most likely will need a total replacement.

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

# Tech Volunteers Work To Bring Relief to Haiti

BY ALEXIS K BARNES
Business & Technology Editor

Volunteers have jumped into action in many capacities following the magnitude 7.0 earthquake that ravaged Haiti. Among the aid, a new dimension of technological relief has been added.

Tech-savvy volunteers have been working to develop new tools and methods to facilitate the public and emergency personnel, according to the Associated Press.

Senior chemical engineering major Arielle Benjamin said she is glad technology has been used as an outlet to help the earthquake victims in Haiti.

"It's good to see this medium used constructively," said Benjamin.

Internet-savvy volunteers have developed tracking software to locate missing victims, map disaster areas and allow cellular communication.

San Diego programmer, Tim Schwartz, worked with ten developers to create www.haitianquake.com, to funnel information into one location.

The site helps citizens locate missing relatives. It can be updated by anyone and currently has more than 6,000 entries.

PersonFinder, Google technology, developed in 2005 following Hurricane Katrina and has more than 32,000 entries.

Organizations including the United Nations (UN), the Red Cross, the World Bank and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency have used the software.

Haitians can use free text messaging, to request help by sending a message to 4636. Tech volunteers developed a system that allows the UN and other groups to dispatch workers, food and water when requested through the number. Once the messages are received, they're translated and categorized by volunteers so survivors can be helped.

Co-creator, Josh Nesbit, says the service has received over 1,000 messages and has been promoted on Haitian radio stations.

The OpenStreetMap project, another joint effort by volunteers, allows current data to be uploaded to note the locations of new field hospitals, down bridges and other information pertinent to rescuers and volunteers.

OpenStreetMap uses satellite imagery and helps responders quickly transport supplies.

"Crisis camps" have sprouted nationwide in major cities throughout America including Los Angeles, Brooklyn and Seattle.

The groups worked to create and deliver a Creole-English dictionary iPhone application that they delivered to Apple on Monday

"In the age we live in, technology plays a very important roles in our lives," said Benjamin. "I'm glad people are joining together to use it for something so positive.

### Online Relief Resources:

Google's Service http://haiticrisis. appspot.com

Text Message Mapping http://haiti.ushahidi. com/main

Haitian Disaster Response Portal: http://haiti.sahanafoundation.org

CrisisCamps: http://crisiscamp.eventbrite.com/

U.S. State Dept.
http://tinyurl.com/
y9pc77p

### Got a refund check?

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# Obama Administration Sees First Year in House

Continued from FRONT, OBAMA

been fulfilled. In addition, 33 are considered a partial success and 87 have been hindered. Fourteen have been broken.

"I don't see anything happening or changing drastically when Obama's term ends," Onwuzuruike said. "The only thing is that the economy is improving."

"I believe that President Obama walked into a huge mess and people had unrealistic expectations of what he could do," said Desirce Luckey, a sophomore sociology major.

Luckey interned with the White House last fall and, as a result from engaging in several senior staff conversations with the intern group, Luckey said she got an overall impression that this past year was about the clean up. Luckey said she Obama's agenda will really be defined and pushed forward in 2010.

Luckey said she has seen changes within Obama's administration and increased transparency and a true desire to connect with the American

"I think President Obama really understands the importance of staying connected with the people and pursues that more than past administrations," Luckey said. "I think that as much as that connection is important to him, people feel like he is losing touch with what they really want."

Luckey said she believes legislation for other issues will have greater ease after getting the healthcare bill passed.



Justin D. Knight - HU Office of Communication

Howard University School Divinity Dean Alton B. Pollard, Lynn Walker Huntley, Esq. (daughter), Rodney Bruce Jones (son), and Librarian Carrie Hackney came out to celebrate the life and legacy of Lawrence Neale Jones, Ph.D., who was honored with the Divinity library being named after him.

"Dean Jones, as he will always be remembered, was one of the forerunners in the School of Divinity's history," Pollard said. "He led this school for 16 years with foresight and perseverance. All those who are fortunate to matriculate, work or teach here are inheritors of his great sacrifice and beneficence."

Jones will be remembered as a visionary, scholar, educator, preacher, pastor, mentor, vanguard, statesman, historian and author, Pollard said.

He received a bachelor's degree from West Virginia State College, a master's degree in American History from the University of Chicago, a bachelor of divinity degree from Oberlin College Graduate School of Theology and a doctorate in African American Church History from Yale University.

Jones served as pastor of churches in Ohio, New York City and Washington, D.C., including Church of the Redeemer and Plymouth Congregational. He also served as Dean of the Chapel at Fisk University and Dean of the Faculty and Acting President of Union Theological Seminary, where he was the first African American to hold that position.

The recipient of numerous honorary degrees and awards, Jones wrote many pastoral pieces, including Soundings, Theological Reflections and Notes from a Preacher's Desk. After his retirement, he wrote African Americans and the Christian Churches, 1619-1860, which was published in 2007 when he was 86 years old.

- Ron Harris, HU Office of Communications

# Are you taking Reporting & Writing this semester? Come grab a story! Come to our budget meeting on Sunday! P-Level, West Tower 6 p.m.

### Republican Takes Over Dem. Seat

Continued from FRONT, RACE

Yet the result of Tuesday's Senate race focuses less about Brown's victory and emphasizes Coakley's defeat.

As recently as last November, Coakley was leading the polls by almost 31 percent and was predicted to win the election. Coakley supported many decisions of President Barack Obama, most notably Obama's health care reform.

She favors increased financial regulation and equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals assachusetts is a typically Democrat-leaning state with liberal ideals, such as housing 2004 Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry and was the first state to legalize same-sex marriage, leading many to see her as a sure fit.

Coakley won the support of many Kennedy family members as well as former President Bill Clinton and President Obama. Obama's speech at Northwestern University this past Sunday aimed to link Coakley to his success, noting the tough nature of Congress and the one-year anniversary of his Inauguration.

"If you were fired up in the last election, I need you more fired up in this election," the President said.

However, Coakley's Senate loss is resonating outside of Massachusetts and on to the national stage. Republicans are no-longer filibuster proof, a reason Democrats cited in the 2006 and 2008 campaigns to further their proposed legislation. With the loss of Ted Kennedy, who was an ardent health care supporter, Democratic leaders in the Senate are scrambling to revise their health care reform expectations. House Democrats have moved to approve legislation at a much slower pace than previously planned while many Senators are considering a smaller and less expansive reform bill.

Jared Garland, sophomore history major, believes Coakley and her campaign was ill run and may have underestimated the Massachusetts electorate.

"I feel that typically, he
[Brown] worked harder than Martha
Coakley", he said.

Garland noted that although she was in the lead before the holiday season, she virtually stopped all public appearances well into the new year.

Conversely, Brown campaigned more vigilantly, causing his poll numbers to gradually rise and tighten the race. In addition, Garland recalls Coakley's campaign poorly managing their financial resources, such as having insufficient funds to adequately run her campaign.

"They should've picked a stronger candidate and one that knew how to run a campaign", he said. "In the end she took the state for granted, and it showed."

### Voter Participation May Now Decline

Continued from FRONT, GEC

"Howard is one of the few schools where the student government has a say in how the school is run."

Henry said she sees lots of reasons why students don't want to get involved, mostly the time commitment and discouragement from past elections. Unfortunately, with the decline of involvement in student government, the voter participation rate is likely to decrease.

"A lot of people have said they don't have the time but when there is a point when you are watching your student government decline, that's an issue." According to Henry, another reason why students may not want to run could be due to the post-election results from previous seasons.

The number of graduate trustee candidates has also declined with only two confirmed candidates for this upcoming season compared to the five candidates from the previous election season.

While the position of chair has been a dream since freshman year, all Henry can do is wait. Applications are officially due tomorrow in the General Elections Office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. "It makes me feel like I have failed," she said. "Where is the competitive spirit? Where is the school spirit?"

If the number of candidates for HUSA and undergraduate trustee turn out as expected, the GEC will have to change plans. For GEC Programs Director Nelson Gillium, his plans for six speakouts will change

"We are going to have to boost the [individual] school elections more. If we can get people to vote for their [individual] school elections they will have to vote for HUSA," she said. "Those who plan on complaining next year should stop now because this is something you let happen."

Henry encourages students to get involved in this year's elections and even suggests the option for a write-in candidate. "Leadership is about experience but it is also about the desire to serve. If you're open to hearing what people have to say, then anyone can be a good leader."

### Business Honors Students Take a Trip

Honors students make early connections

Continued from FRONT, SBEL

"The highlight was learning about the financial crisis from the perspective of high level professionals who were extremely knowledgeable about what happened in 2007 and 2008," says Jackson.

In addition to listening to top executives, a select few students were able to be guests on BET's popular show '106 & Park.' Even though the students appeared to be out of place in their suits, they believed it was a good change to a long retreat.

The awakening they received from some of the alumni also fascinated students. On three separate occasions, from two companies, students were urged to remain viable candidates. CITI, a financial services company, asked students to recite an article from The Wall Street Journal and only a few students were able to do so.

It is reported that during Morehouse Colleges' visit to CITI, even less were able to recite an article.

Students were challenged to stay relevant and up-to-date in an effort to remain competitive with students of Ivy League schools. Students from Cornell University happened to be in the room across the hall networking with executives as well.

Because of experiences such as these, the honors program has made it mandatory for students to read The Wall Street Journal.

During the trip, Henley was adamant on maintaining the purpose of the program. "The original goal was to allow [students] to excel academically but develop leadership skills and unity service at an accelerated rate." She hopes to prepare them for "global" leadership.

### HU Alumni Orchestrate Event to Help Haiti

BY CHELSEA BATTLE Contributing Writer

Inconspicuously perched on 15th Street in Northwest Washington, D.C., the Recess Lounge is a trendy new venue that attracts a diverse crowd of young professionals and college students.

Immersed under a canopy of flashing strobe lights, bombastic upbeat music, and candlelit booths, this modern club would normally be the perfect place to grab a few drinks and unwind with friends on the weekends.

However, this particular evening was different - the lounge hosted an event called "Union Makes Strength," a fundraiser for the Haitian earthquake relief effort.

This timely fundraiser was the brainchild of Howard alumni and co-hosts Darryl Lockett, Tito Castro, and BJ White. Taking full advantage of the bar's happy hour, approximately 200 guests provided monetary donations for the relief efforts with the purchase of each drink.

Patrons also gave donations upon entrance in the lounge, that will be distributed by two fundraising organizations specifically targeted for Haiti.

Yele Haiti is a non-profit organization founded by recording artist Wyclef Jean, while Partners in Health is an organization that brings modern medical health care to impoverished communities across the globe.

The goal of the event was to raise as much money as possible to bring aid to Haiti for reconstruction and medical purposes.

"As soon as I heard about the earthquake I wanted to do something to help immediately," said Darryl Lockett, one of the coordinators of the event. "They are going through so much out there. You see Anderson Cooper pulling kids out of rubble on CNN and making a big difference. We're trying to be [like] Anderson Cooper as well, but on a smaller scale, helping however we can."

Amanda Klasing is an attorney with the RFK Center for Justice and Human rights who works with and represents Partners in Health.

"We strive to provide the same quality healthcare that you would have in the U.S. for no charge. So if you can't pay you don't pay," said Klasing.

The 7.0 earthquake that hit Port-au-Prince, the capital city of Haiti, proved to be catastrophic, leaving at least 200,000 people dead. Several fatal aftershocks occurred as well.

Haiti has not experienced an earthquake as detrimental as this one since the 18th century. Haitian citizens have been left with little to nothing and many are still struggling to survive under rubble. Most of those who managed to escape with their lives have little or no access to medical care.

This is where organizations such as Partners in Health are effective. Partners in Health has been offering free medical care in Haiti for over two decades. They have brought modern healthcare to poor communities in nine countries.

Many individuals present at the lounge event have family members in Haiti and have been able to keep in contact with them.

After the earthquake, Leann Wright went to great lengths to get in contact with her family members.



Photo Couriesy of gaograpios

Haitian-American musician Wycelf Jean spearheads Yele Haiti, a grassroots organization that offers humanitarian services to Haiti. Created in 2005, Yele Haiti provides educational, food, art and emergency relief services.

"You have to go through a long chain of command to get through to your family but I eventually did. It took some time though," said Wright.

Likewise, Freddie Lebrun was able to get in contact with her family in Haiti.

"I thank God that everyone is okay. A lot of my relatives had Skype and other satellite connections. I had a friend who was down there on business with the Department of Interior and he didn't make it," said Lebrun. "I'm happy

that this earthquake got as much coverage as it did and I'm very surprised that it did. I feel very fortunate."

At the end of the night the event raised a grand total of \$5,538 dollars.

If you are interested in donating money to either organization, visit www.yele.org or www. pih.org.

# 



The "Big Chair" used to hold the record as the World's Biggest Chair. It was restored in 2005 and now stands at 19.5 feet tall and weight 4,600 pounds.

### A Local Landmark: The Big Chair in SE

BY SARAYA WINTERSMITH Contributing Writer

It stands tremendous yet motionless, announcing the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue and V Street. In the midst of its five decade life span, residents of Southeast, D.C. have not only become accustomed to its colossal presence, but also use it as a reference point to navigate the surrounding area.

Many of the older residents can also recall the days when it was a novel advertising tool for a local furniture company.

At the time of its creation in 1959, the original Anacostia "big chair" was believed to be the largest chair in the world.

Made from Honduras Mahogany, the 19.5 feet tall seat was constructed as a novel advertisement strategy on behalf of Curtis Brother's Furniture. Bassett Furniture Industries of Virginia built the chair and dedicated it to Curtis Brother's on July 11, 1959.

Shortly thereafter, the company began using the landmark to stage other memorable advertisement feats that many local residents still remember.

"Meet me at the 'big chair," said Zenobia Love, an Anacostia native, said. "That's what people always say. You can't miss it, and it's always there."

Sage "Travis" Britt recalls a myth about the chair when he first moved to Anacostia.

"I heard there was a lady who lived up there for a number of days, and they used to have Santa Claus up there around Christmas time for promotional purposes."

According to an interview with the Washington Post, security guard Bunmi Fadairo often heard the question "What happened to the chair?" after it was removed for restoration in 2005. It was returned to its site in April 2006.

George Nelson, owner of a local welding business, was recruited to help fabricate a painted aluminum duplicate of the 4,600 Duncan Phyfe model chair.

He explained that the project was such a large undertaking that he immediately understood that he would need help. The first person he called was an engineer,

"The pieces of the chair were water-jet cut to precision," said Nelson. "The chair was constructed under the supervision of Devery Lomax in Orlando, Fla. After it was done, I rented a flatbed truck and we drove the chair from Florida back here to D.C."

The chair was unveiled and re-dedicated in April of 2006.

While the chair may have been the world's largest in 1959, the title was later claimed by the city of Anniston, Ala. when Miller's Office Furniture constructed a 33-foot tall office chair made of steel.

Today, according to web postings on www.funkydown-town.com, The Guinness Book of World Records 2010 recognizes a chair in Austria measuring 98 feet 5 inches.

Interested in writing for the Metro section covering local events, people, and places?
Send an e-mail to hilltopmetro@gmail. com!

### Haiti Relief Efforts What can you do to help Haiti?

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Professionals
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Wale: Hands for
Haiti Benefit
Concert
Howard University
Cramton Auditorium
Thursday,
January 21 at 7
p.m.
#20

National Symphony Orchestra
Benefit Concert
The Kennedy
Center for the
Performing Arts
2700 F St. NW
Friday,
January 22
\$20-\$85

Friday for Haiti
Local 16
1602 U.St. NW
Friday,
January 22
6:30 - 10:30
p.m.
\$25

Georgetown for
Haiti
3265 M St./Various Georgetown
Businesses
Friday,
January 22
7-9 p.m.
\$10

Haiti Benefit
Concert
Iota Club & Café
2832 Wilson
Blvd.
Arlington, Va.
Friday,
January 22
8 p.m.

# to raise money for the Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Fund. This way, less plastic and paper waste will end up in the river and money will be available to clean and maintain it.

**NEWS FLASH** 

You've probably noticed that grocery stores now charge

5 cents for plastic and paper bags.

Why?

Effective Jan. 1, the D.C. Council enacted a bag fee law





The Sentience

BY RILEY WILSON Contributing Columnist

"Do not pray for the tasks equal to your powers; pray fer powers equal to your task." I'd have to say that is the dumbest thing I've ever heard and I heard it in class. A new semester should mean new insight, yet I feel compelled to complain and criticize the student body's audacity to be close-minded and controlled.

It was indeed a great quote by Phillip Brooks. The class translated it, saying that you should set yourself to meet your tasks instead of asking for remedial tasks to meet your expectations. Everyone agreed. Everyone except me.

I couldn't help but blurt out, "Well wouldn't that mean your destiny would be dependent on your tasks?" I highly doubt there was any type of pun or humor in my question, yet everyone seemed to laugh. It was actually hilarious (for some reason or another); so much so, that I even saw the teacher display a sly smirk.

While my peers laughed ridiculously, I looked around at them - their countenances, their emotions and their demeanors. They didn't know half of what I was even talking about. They were laughing because they didn't understand - and it made me taste the vomit on the tip of my tongue.

It got to a point where I realized it was no longer about understanding the quote; the quote represents an idea, I found the laughter more intriguing because at that point I noticed a very apparent characteristic of young adults, yet alone all humans; we laugh when we are unable to conceptualize a new idea. Either this, or that the class was too bourgeois to say they understood - I like the first reason better. It doesn't matter whether I was right or not - because I know I was right.

Of course, every time we laugh we are not ignorant of something but when someone poses an alternative to the normal conformity we live in, our instinct is to "Laugh Until Further Notice." It's sort of like a safety net.

Follow me. I'm not going off on a tangent - I'm explaining. When it was just being proposed that Africans arrived in ancient America prior to Christopher Columbus, I'm sure people found it hilarious - blacks included. Why?

Because they couldn't conceptualize the possibility of a norm-shift, an alternative, another way of thinking about something. It doesn't matter if you have evidence. Each and every person that sat in that class thinks they are counteracting societal norms by coming to Howard when, in fact, they are doing the total opposite. I'm sure you could educate a dog on all the ways to find a stick, but in the end - it's still a dog and it's still picking up a stick. That went over your head but that's okay.

While sitting in the class, I found myself battling an enemy I couldn't defeat. We are all fed the culture and love it. We clothe ourselves with the resemblance of each other and wonder why we drift on islands of solitude. When we are children, we can imagine - we can challenge; then, it is called learning. But when we grow, we continue the process of 'maturity,' suppress our instinct against closed-mindedness and drink the Kool-aid.

It is not about the quote, and never will be. It is about our ability to think.

### Employees Bite The Hand That Feeds Them

'Gift card swiping' has become an increasing trend among employees of large, multi-chain retail stores

BY MILAN KUNIN Editoral Assistant

Imagine working in a retail store surrounded by new merchandise everyday but unable to purchase any of it because you can't afford it.

Recently, employees at large, multi-chain retail stores such as Nordstrom, Bloomingdales and Saks Fifth Avenue have found a way around that. More and more employees have begun using gift cards to rip off their employers.

According to the New York Times, Joshua Bamfield, author of the "Global Retail Theft Barometer," an annual international survey of retailers, found that employees averaged \$1,890 in theft, almost three times more than the average shoplifter who steals about \$438 in retail merchandise.

The scales of these crimes have ranged from small to extremely complex. In Staten Island, a 20- year-old Best Buy employee was arrested as well as a 22-year-old K-mart employee in Hazlet, New Jersey. Both were suspected of using gift cards to heist \$600 and \$1,500 respectively.

On a larger scale, Saks sales associate Kashien Mercer was charged by the Manhattan District Attorney (DA) on charges of grand larceny, reports the New York Post. She was said to have charged \$130,000 to Saks gift cards.

The process of stealing money from large retail stores is a simple undertaking. Employees

are able to steal from their jobs by making fake returns and putting the balances on gift cards.

Another trend in gift card shoplifting has been to take customers' cash in exchange for gift cards. These gift cards, however, have no value added to them. Instead, the employee keeps the filled gift card to use for personal expenses.

As a victim of "gift card swipe out," Staci Clarke of New York said, "I wish there was more that could be done in regards to preventing this type of thing from happening. It's unfortunate that people do not have higher morals and values but I guess that's just what the world is coming to."

"After the incident I had a Bloomingdales, [Now] I immediately have the cashier ring the card up with a printed receipt displaying that the money has been put on the card," she said. "I had \$300 stolen from me right in front of my face. I will never allow that to happen again."

Many stores are in the process of ensuring that victims who have had similar incidents to Clarke's are few and far between.

The Crime Detector for Employee Theft suggests that, "basic loss prevention steps involve good procedures for hiring, training and supervision of employees and managers. Procedures that are clearly defined, articulated and fully implemented will reduce the opportunity, desire and motivation for employees to steal."



Photo Courtesy of parentsuniversalresourceexperts.com-

Although many retail stores have installed controls to combat employee theft, employees are still able to steal three times as much as the average shoplifter.

### Skin Care is More Complex for Some

African American women must pay close attention to their choices of skin care

BY MILAN KUNIN

Editorial Assistant

MAC, Sephora, CoverGirl and Mary Kay are just a few of the many different make-up and skin care lines used daily by billions of women all over the world.

With so many options, it's hard to know what's just right for you. Do you have dry skin or oily skin, consistent acne or spontaneous breakouts? Whatever the answer, each of these respected brands have something to offer.

The truth is, everything is not for everybody and what works for some complexions and skin types may not work for others.

The care of African-American skin is different than that of other skin types because of the amount of melanin in their skin.

According to Squidoo.com, darker-skinned people having an oily skin type often find trouble keeping their skin healthy because their skin is likely to have larger oil glands as compared to Asian or Caucasian skin.

The excessive oil glands may lead to an unwanted shiny appearance. If the oil glands become over-active then they can become clogged and lead to acne.

Acne is one of the most common skin disorders that African-Americans can suffer.

Treating acne can be annoying, and with inadequate treatment, it will do more harm than good.

To combat this particular skin care issue, Squidoo suggested natural skin care products such as Erbaorganics, Deep Steep, Golden Earth and Skinnyskinny.

with the same issue, Mary Kay's velocity facial cleanser is recommended. After taking care of the

For lighter-skinned women

basics of skin care, finding the right foundation is key. Brittany Brewer, a junior public relations major, is an avid MAC consumer.

She believes the most important aspect in choosing a foundation is finding one that matches your complexion and looks natural.

"Make-up, especially foundation, is meant to cover up blemishes and highlight natural beauty. It should never take over or take away from what you really look like underneath it all," said Briana Mosley, junior applied communications major.

Sonia Maxwell-Lawson, a make-up salesperson for more than 25 years said that a person's skin care system will determine how make-up will look.

"Honestly, the important thing about foundation is having a good skin regimen. If you don't, any base you put on your face will look caked on. After that is in place, you need to find a tone that gives highlights your features opposed to making it look dark and drab."

Maxwell-Lawson continues, "The overall problem is the fact that scientists are all still learning when it comes to our complexion. We don't have enough people in the laboratories to come up with and master our different skin tones, so ultimately that is what we are lacking."

### DO YOU LIKE TO WRITE?

DO YOU LIKE LIFE & STYLE?

ACCEPTING NEW STAFF WRITERS & EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS!

E-mail hilltopls@gmail.com for more information!

### Take It From The Top



BY CRYSTAL J. ALLEN Editor-In-Chief

Welcome back! We've missed you all and we're sure you all have missed us as well!

Since last year, we've made some changes - all of which are for the bet-

As the daily student voice of Howard University, it's important for us to keep up with what is important to our demographic.

At a time when natural disasters are prevalent and daily stressors often seem to take us out of our element, we feel it's essential to highlight the importance of health.

There are several issues that plague our community - including, but not limited to, hypertension, heart disease, mental iliness and several types of cancer.

In saying this I must mention that there are not enough of us who actually go to see the doctor, which is one main reason why these diseases tend to plague us.

As the leaders of today, it is important for us to make sure we stay abreast of all things relating to good

With these things in mind, The Hilltop has introduced a Weliness section, scheduled to make its debut next Wednesday.

We hope you enjoy!

Like most of you all, The Hilltop also has New Year's Resolutions that we are working toward.

These resolutions include improving our reporting and our editing, as well as focusing on the needs of the Howard community as a whole - not just undergraduate, but graduate students, faculty and administration as well

It's safe to say that we are doing some in-house grooming in order to be the best we can be for you all.

That's always a good thing.

Still, we are a news organization and by no means does this mean we will back down from our promise to discuss the issues prevalent on this campus.

' There are several students having issues with registration in their respective schools (even after the registration deadline).

There are also students having issues with financial aid and student accounts, not to mention the countless issues involving incidents of cheating.

These issues should be discussed and brought to the forefront and, as your daily voice, we will do so.

So, be excited!

This is a new year, which means new goals and new determination. We are excited to do what we need to do and personally, with this being my last year, I'm extremely excited for what's to come this semester.

Each day, as I realize this is the beginning of the end for the Class of 2010, more and more nostalgic moments overwhelm me. In short, this last semester will be epic, in all respects.

We're so glad you're along for the ride.

TWEET OF THE tweets from some of HU's funniest twits

like everyone else! God is love. Rev Run.

35 PM Im 11th from web o Rev Kun Wizdamb

red, God is love, Rev Run.

E38PM Jan 20th from web

HEY? did you KI sounthing funny th our so it can appear here!

He Said...She Said Viewpoints from Both Sides of the Gender

This week's issue:

### Internet Romances

By Jada F. Smith

We greet each other by our Twitter names. Our Facebook albums tell us what each other did this weekend. We iChat, Gchat, BBM, SMS and DM each other relationship. in class, at work and even as we glance back and forth at the road while driving

Apparently, we can't get enough of each other. We have to know and be constantly involved in the lives of those in our digital circles at every hour, every minute and every ticking second. Back in the day (you know, 2008), people called this kind of behavior needy, clingy, stalkerish or crazy. Today, it's...cute?

Remember when people used to say, "mind your business" or "don't worry about what I'm dong"? I think those phrases officially became obsolete last year when people invited every one of their Twitter followers to be part of their romantic relationships.

Yes, we saw y'all break-up. We saw your "sublimial tweet", your "drunk tweet" and we know where y'all went on your first

I've learned quite a few things about some of the people I follow on Twitter, things people usually learn only by playing a game of Truth of Dare during Spring Break after a few bottles of Tequila.

Twitter "trending toplike #SecretTurnOns, #ThoughtsDuringSex and #Twit- knows, it might be fun.

What's your favorite part of Howard

Email it to meccanisms@gmail.com

terAfterDark have put the nail in the coffin for "privacy." It's dead, y'all. And with one death, comes a new life - the birth of the digital

If it's not displayed on Facebook, it doesn't count. If he doesn't tweet about you, he doesn't care. If he untag's himself in that picture, he's trying to hide something. She didn't respond to your text, but she tweeted two minutes later, now you have to respond with a "subliminal tweet".

It's such a task keeping up with our digital lives and digital loves that when we are in the company of our friends, loved ones and even the people we're in romantic relationships with, we're ignoring them and instead showering our phones with love and attention. Is this real life?! No, I think not. It's more like the Matrix. We all live our lives in the techno-sphere so much that we neglect the simplicities and pleasures of real life.

I think we should all chill on clicking the "refresh" button every 5 1/2 seconds and Skyping with people who we saw yesterday and will see again tomorrow.

I have this crazy idea. Let's get to know each other by having verbal conversations, not through keyboards. Let's learn each other's mannerisms, body language and the sound of other's voices. I know it's a crazy idea, but who By Deontay Morris

In 2010 there are many ways to keep track of what a person is doing. Nowadays there are countless ways to contact someone: a text message, Facebook, Twitter, bbm (my personal favorite), email, Skype and Myspace just to name a few.

It is a little crazy that my boss, Crystal Allen, the Editor-In-Chief of The Hilltop can contact me through Twitter, Facebook, BBM, email, text message and even an old fashioned phone call. I couldn't even avoid her if I wanted to, there is no more hiding!

It was only a matter of time before all of this technology leaked into our relationships or the dating world. Now in particular, these social networking sites serve as validation that a relationship is official for a lot of people. We all have those friends who's Facebook statuses or tweets are ALWAYS about their significant other... or the lack of one.

I personally don't believe that any words on the internet ever mean anything of substance and shouldn't be the determining factor on how real a relationship is. Also there is this thing called privacy! I think a lot of peo- supposed to be used for.. ple in our generation have lost sight of that and don't understand the significance of keepings things between two people.

I must admit that I occasionally send a subliminal

tweet or Facebook status out to some people. It's fun. But sometimes all the internet affection gets out of hand. When you have Facebook albums of a date that you guys went on or love poems, you have taken it a little too far.

The reality of most collegiate relationships is that they don't last past college. This is due to a number of different reasons but a lot them come down to instability because we are trying to pursues our dreams and learning who we are.

Call me old school or a grandpa, but I personally like to get to know people through face to face and phone conversations. I do this because there are certain things you can't pick up through a tweet or a text, such as tone, sarcaism, sincerity and lying And how many of us type "lol" and we're not really laughing?

It is hilarious how people don't say anything in real life but say all of these outlandish or "deep" things when they get to the comfort of their keyboard and have hours to think of things to say. That deserves a #come-

Social networks are networking, not to broadcast ALL of your personal thoughts and every last detail of your life. Keep this in mind when using all of these tools of communication.

### Overheard @ The Mecca

Overheard infront of Locke Hall ....

Guy: Dang, she's lookin kinda good. When I get my GPA up, I'ma holla' at her.

Overheard somewhere on campus....

Guy: Did yall hear about the HUSA christmas tree (shows the picture)?

Girl 1: That's the \$4,000 christmas tree?!

Guy: Yup, that's it.

Girl 2: HUSA spent \$4,000 on a christmas tree?...you see...that's exactly why I use up all the paper in the ilab..I'm printing out my text books next semester.

Overheard one of your fellow Bison say something crazy? Send it to meccanisms@gmail.com!

### 20 Questions

...because we know you were wondering the same thing.

- Have you donated to any of the Haitian relief funds yet?
- How many people think Jay-Z is in the Illuminati?
- Why do we have to wait to get visitation back after semester breaks?
- 4. How many people watch Bad Girls Club?
- Seniors, are you on the "prospective graduates"
- 6. So why is there only one slate running for HUSA this year?
- 7. Why doesn't anybody care about student government anymore? 8. Who was competing for more overrides this year?
- Dr. Carr or Ian Smart? 9. Did you spend your New Years with a bunch of
- Howard folks? 10. After that three day weekend, is it too early to start talking about Spring Break?

- 11. Why are people always speaking ill of their beloved student-run newspaper, yet never lift a finger to help improve it?
- 12. Who shot Wacka Flocka?
- 13. Hey, @RealitysFake2 and @AirOutHoward, you know The Hilltop knows who you are, right?
- 14. Why was the School of B on 106 & Park looking out of place in business suits?
- 15. Where is the annual graduation party going to be now that LOVE is closed?!
- 16. Did you get your ticket for the Hands on Haiti benefit concert tonight?
- 17. Who's album are you looking forward to for 2010?
- 18. Where were you this time last year? (Obama! Obama!)
- 19. How many people are having "I Hate Love" parties on Feb. 14?
- 20. Did you miss us?!

Compiled by The Hilltop Staff



### We Have Better Things To Be Concerned About

Late last year, gossip columnists and conspiracy theorists alike became absorbed by with the idea that some of the world's biggest entertainers and public figures, from Jay-Z to our beloved Barack Obama, were devil worshipping members of an ancient secret society coined the "Illuminati."

Although the wild rumor has spread like wildfire through internet gossip outlets, college campuses, and social networking sites; it seems you'd be hard pressed to find any average person with legitimate knowledge of what the IIluminati actually is.

attempting After to complete any serious research on the topic, it seems virtually impossible to pinpoint any definite rundown on exactly what the Illuminati is or how the supposed conspiracies associated with its followers relate to such entertainers such as Kanye West or Lady Gaga.

The overall idea behind the conspiracy group is that the "global elite" (including entertainers, political

leaders and other wealthy influencers), is slowly but surely taking over the world-supposedly. Originated by eleventh century Jesuit priests, Illuminatists were allegedly "high order Freemasons".

Some believers in the outlandish conspiracy theory claim involvement

### **Our View:**

We should definitely use our time to focus on something more constructive.

in the secret occult explains the fame, wealth, success, and influence enjoyed by the aforementioned individuals. Claiming symbols and gestures associated with the occult can be found in music videos, clothing, and all other possible outlets; people have really begun to believe that these people are devil

worshipping cult members.

Of course, everyone is going to gossip-especially about the rich, famous, and successful. But are we, as intelligent young people, going to believe everything that someone tells us? It's honestly disrespectful to a degree.

> Barack Obama, one of the most accomplished figures in American history and an incredible icon of forward progress is successful not because of his hard work and perseverance but because of his involvement in an anti-Semitic satanic cult?

> "It's actually unbelievable to me that as college students, so many of us

are focused on ignorant gossip instead of things that are really important," said junior International Business major Tiffany Luse.

"Politics, school, anything would be better than feeding into this frenzy of conspiracy theories."

### Daily Sudoku

Directions:

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

n	5	20	00	3	13	8	1	K
		16		2	8		9	
		8	5			4	2	
2				4	5		8	
6		9				3		2
	8	JE	3	6	10		C	9
	2	5	1		7	9		
	9		8	5				
	7	1		9			3	

### Want to write for The Hilltop?

Come grab a story at our next budget meeting.

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

### Perspective:

### The Chewing Game

Perhaps one of the first lessons that I learned as a child was to chew with your mouth closed; and rightfully so. Anyone who knows me well, knows that if there's one thing that I do not like it's people chewing with their mouths open.

The number of people who chew with their mouths open in this society is alarming. This doesn't just apply to the dinner table, but even in casual settings. No one wants to see the food in your mouth as you masticate, regardless of the situation.

Take for the first example the dinner table. As you are sitting down to dinner with friends, family, or even co-workers, do you really think that everyone came to dinner to hear every bite that you take of your dinner? Do you really think that it is everyone's lot in life to see your dinner transform from its solid state to the small, shredded bits that are easy for digestion?

If you do, then you're wrong Now, I know what you're thinking; "what if the food is hot?" And that's a

very good point to raise. In that instance, I would say don't be in such a rush to eat that you would risk burning your tongue and insides of your mouth...they're very important mechanisms in the production of speech. Take enough time to either a.) allow the food a chance to cool down before digging in or b.) blow the food before you eat it; two or three strong winds should leave it at an edible temperature.

Next is the issue of chewing gum. When you are chewing gun, is it really so hard to chew with your mouth closed? I mean, you must realize how ridiculous you look chewing like you were raised on a farm and are in line to be branded any day, and marked for sale.

Chewing gum, generally, is not spicy, nor is it hot in temperature. Thus, there really is no excuse for not being able to chew gum with your mouth closed.

Chewing gum is something that you will most likely do three or more days out of your work week when you get into the "real world." And if you don't learn to do so quietly, you run the risk of looking like a fool in front of your co-workers, superiors, and potential employers/clients.

For social and professional purposes, it is necessary for you to learn to chew with your mouth closed. It isn't something that you can

The smallest things sometimes make the most difference. When you go into the workforce, potential employers are looking at everything you do and the way that you do it. Sometimes the smallest characteristics can make the biggest difference between two similarly credentialed people.

Just food for thought: feel free to start practicing

> Marquis H. Barnett, Junior Communication Sciences and Disorders major and Nation & World Editor

### 

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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

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

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Capital Area
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consiste clouding to letries, a canned food to the lower lever of Black burn

f Black bury to support Haitian reliefs

1/21-1/29

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emall questions to huasb2010@ gmall.com

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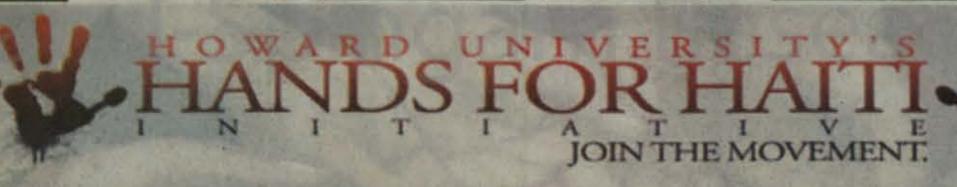
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