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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 91, NO. 17

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Established
1924

Tuesday's
Notebook

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

EVEN THE SIX-FIGURE AMERICANS ARE HAVING TROUBLE LIVING OFF THEIR PAY-CHECKS, SEE BIZ & TECH FOR DETAILS.

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METRO

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL CHANCELLOR MICHELLE RHEE HAS CLOSED SCHOOLS AND FIRED PRINCIPALS. WHAT IS HER NEXT STEP?

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LIFE & STYLE

LIFE EXPECTANCY RATES DRASTICALLY FLUCTUATE, DEPENDING ON GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND INCOME.

PAGE 8

Ad Agency Funds Center of Excellence in Advertising

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

Howard alumni, student leaders, administrators and professors gathered to watch the American Association of Advertising Agencies (AAAA) present the John H. Johnson School of Communications with \$250,000 on Monday.

The money will be used to open a Center for Excellence in Advertising in the school.

"The money we gave is only a small piece," said David Prince, senior vice president of AAAA. "We hope to have a million dollars by the end of this

year." As of now, AAAA is only partnering with Howard because the HU brand offers a deep understanding of the black experience, has a proven track record and long history of developing leaders and is renowned for academic excellence, innovative programs and collaborative partnerships with the private sector.

"Howard is an institution that everybody already knows," Prince said. "It is better to start in this one place and let it grow."

The center itself will reach out to other Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) to strengthen the

center's mission of diversity. "We have already been in contact with the other 105 HBCUs and we are having our first meeting next week in New York at AAAA," Dates said. "We do not expect everyone to attend but we have already received positive replies."

Dates added that the whole point of the center is to increase diversity and the addition of other HBCUs will help achieve this goal more effectively.

"The center is going to be a gateway to foster development and to offer opportunities," Dates said. "We're going to increase the ranks of [black] senior and middle management level executives in a

way that has never been done before." Prince stressed the organization's emphasis on diversity, saying, "This industry is suffering from the lack of knowledge of what people of color can bring to the table. The biggest issue we face is having people of color at senior and middle management levels."

Peter added, "We need growth and that's what this center is for. The perception is that 'I'm going to go really far but never run this business.' We want to change that perception and that's what the center is for."

Dr. Alvin Thornton, interim Provost and chief academic officer, said,

"One of the most important things of any society is the private sectors giving back to the community."

In order to make this center successful, Dates emphasized the importance of alumni giving back.

"We're going to look to our alumni at middle and senior management levels in this industry," she explained. "And we are going to use our alumni database. One of the things we are doing is bringing students along so that they will have the opportunity to work with people in the industry. So that they may have the opportunity to intern and have a mentor."



D.C. Firefighters on their way to College Street prepare to put out a fire reportedly caused by a cigarette not being put out properly.

False Fire Alarm On College Street

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

Firefighters responded to a call regarding smoke and a possible fire in Ernest Everett Just Hall, the biology building, at the College Street entrance at around 4:30 p.m. on Monday.

Immediately following, 4th Street was closed to incoming traffic and was soon swarmed with fire department trucks and an ambulance. A campus police officer was stationed at each end of the street to direct traffic away from the possible danger.

However, at 5:00 p.m., a D.C. Firefighter at the scene explained that it was a false alarm caused by "leaves."

He believes that someone may have been smoking and tossed their cigarette versus putting it out safely causing the leaves to ignite a small fire. No suspects were apprehended.

"Billowing clouds of smoke were coming through the back door of the biology building facing College Street," says Jasmine Carpenter, sophomore accounting major.

Parks was released from her 4:10

p.m. through 5:00 p.m. class at approximately 20 minutes into class. She wonders if it was really only leaves because she believes the smoke was coming out of the Ernest Everett Just Hall biology building.

"We were released early because the bell began to sound," Carpenter said. "I was looking around for a minute before I got out of my seat and walked out."

No students were reportedly harmed by the event. The firefighters were gone by 5:30 p.m. and the street opened back up.

The potential fire has some students wondering whether Howard should be a smoke free campus.

"If we're going to have a dry campus, we might as well have a smoke-free campus," Parks said.

Megan Johnson, sophomore biology major, said, "I definitely believe that Howard should be a smoke-free campus, because first of all, for people who have allergies or asthma, it's not



Some students feel that Howard should not only a dry campus, but a smoke-free campus as well.

good for us. Second hand smoke is dangerous."

Johnson said she wonders what would happen if it wasn't a pile of leaves next time, what if it were chemicals.

"A lot of cases where people throw cigarettes out cause major fires," she said.

Johnson recalls a moment when a friend's house burned down due to a cigarette not being put out properly.

Stock Market Turmoil Strikes Fear in Americans

BY LISA ANDERSON
Chicago Tribune (MCT)

NEW YORK — The demise of two venerable Wall Street giants reverberated around the city Monday as thousands of financial workers awoke to find legendary companies in upheaval, jobs in jeopardy and the city braced for the economic ripple effect from catastrophe in its leading industry.

Mired in the credit crisis, 94-year-old financial services firm Merrill Lynch & Co. abruptly agreed to sell itself to Bank of America while 158-year-old investment bank Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. filed for bankruptcy protection. The disintegration of the two firms and the potential loss of thousands of jobs will trim municipal and state tax coffers and rock the New York City economy with repercussions in the commuter communities of New Jersey and Connecticut.

With more than one-third of total city salaries and wages originating in the financial and insurance sectors, Wall Street's crisis affects virtually everyone from deliverers of shoe shines, deli food and flowers to purveyors of \$300 Bordeaux, \$3,000 suits and \$3 million condominiums.

The average Wall Street salary was \$387,000 last year, according to the city comptroller, in an industry in which \$1 million bonuses are not uncommon. And, as Mayor Michael Bloomberg pointed out at a news conference Monday, "It's generally believed that one Wall Street job helps create two or three other jobs."

It is unclear how many of Merrill Lynch's 60,000 employees — some 8,000 of whom are in the New York City area — may lose their jobs in the deal with Bank of America, but Bloomberg said he had been assured by the presidents of the two firms that "they believe jobs losses in the New York area will be relatively minimal."

Such is not the case with Lehman Brothers, where 25,000 jobs, some 12,000 of them in New York, are expected to be lost in the company's liquidation.

Throughout the day, employees carrying tote bags, suitcases and boxes

packed with contents of desks and offices streamed out of Lehman's Times Square-area headquarters. Standing near Lehman's main entrance and offering his business card to employees, Adam Connors, a partner in the Spire executive search firm, said he'd met one guy whose first day at Lehman was Monday. "I'm just trying to help out," he said. "It's tough for these people." However, he said, "There's always someone on the other end of the trade. So, there will be pockets of opportunities."

Former Lehman employee Guy Tower agreed. He also stood outside the headquarters holding up a help wanted sign saying he was looking to hire a systems administrator. "There are a lot of really good people there," said Tower, who is now with Sakonnet Technology, which specializes in energy trading and risk management software. He noted he'd already had a few nibbles for the job, and they were all from "overqualified" people.

A few yards away, painter Geoffrey Raymond invited Lehman employees and pedestrians to write messages on a large oil portrait he'd done of Lehman chairman and chief executive Richard Fuld. "Greed and Ego it was" and "Trust no one with your money" were among the scrawled comments.

Meanwhile, a steady stream of tourists passed by, many of them unaware of Lehman's demise. But not Sheri Marshall, a registered nurse from Chicago. "I know my personal finances haven't been great this year. So, when the big investors are having problems — and they're the ones with the knowledge — it's really scary," she said.



A stock market crash would be devastating for Americans.

Students Should Do Research Before Choosing To Live Off Campus

BY VALITA WALSTON
Contributing Writer

Like thousands of students who migrate to Washington, D.C., Lisa Fraser came to the area to begin her collegiate career. Moving to the District in 1993 as a sophomore transfer student to Howard University, Fraser was also among thousands of students faced with the frustra-

tions of becoming a first time renter.

Having already experienced dorm life at her previous university Fraser opted to rent a shared house in the Ledroit Park area with other students to perhaps save housing on costs. Housing code violations with a private landlord was an issue Fraser dealt with, causing an abrupt end to her first rental endeavor.

"My roommates and I had prob-

lems which included radiator leaks that caused an odor in the house and non-working lights, but we needed housing," said Fraser.

Fraser said she did not know the extent of her rights, but ended up in tenant's court for eventually refusing to pay rent. "We ended up in court, but the judge ruled in our favor initially because the landlord had these violations, by the

time we went back to court we decided to move," said Fraser.

What was believed to be a fatality caused by rental housing code violations occurred in October 2004 when Georgetown University student Daniel Rigby died after the Georgetown rowhouse he was renting caught fire. Initially, the cause of the fire was believed to be related to electrical wiring in the house. The fire

prompted the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) to start inspecting rental spaces in the Georgetown area. Although the initial cause of fire was dispelled the house Rigby lived in after being inspected was found to have housing code violations.

This fall, the DCRA has launched an aggressive initiative to help

>See HOUSING, Page 3

CEACS Hosts Annual Pageant, Sets the Stage for Howard Title



Last night, sophomore chemical engineering major Bianca Bailey and sophomore computer engineering major John Murphy were crowned the College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Science (CEACS) Queen and King. The CEACS pageant's first contestant was Danah Warren, a junior computer engineering major from Washington, D.C. Her talent included a short poem and a showcase of her vocal talents over the song "Yeyo."

Pageant winner Bianca Bailey, who hails from Dallas, Texas, recited spoken word and played "What's Going On" by Marvin Gaye on her trumpet. Her talent was called "Music Builds Bridges." The question that they asked was what could she do to close the gap between architects and engineers.

The third contestant was Ashley Smith, a sophomore architecture major from Scarsdale, N.Y. She sang a rendition of "Emotional Rollercoaster" by Vivian Green. She was asked what was a better character builder, success or failure.

The fourth and final contestant – and only male – was other pageant winner John Murphy. His talent was a dance performance. The question that was posed to him was what was the biggest problem in CEACS and how would he fix it.

-Compiled by Travis White, Staff Photographer



Dale Golden - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

According to a Boston University statement, no complaints have been made about condoms being added to vending machines.

BU Adds Condoms to Vending Machines

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

Candy, soda, chips, or condoms? Boston University has recently added condoms to their vending machines in 11 of their dormitories.

The Boston University Office of Residence Life recently issued this statement regarding the addition, which explained that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that there are approximately 19 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases nationally each year.

According to the statement, nearly half of the cases are people ages 15 to 24. The CDC also estimates that approximately 50 percent of sexually active women aged 20 to 24 are infected with human papilloma virus (HPV).

The release states, "This translates to thousands of Boston University students who are unnecessarily risking their health, and the health of their sexual partners."

The CDC reports that in Washington D.C. there is a population of 581,530 as of 2006 with 56.5 percent of the population being of African descent. However, blacks account for a disproportionate 81 percent of the HIV/AIDS cases reported in D.C.

Whites accounted for 9 percent and Hispanics account for 4 percent.

Of the males diagnosed, 83 percent were black. Of the females affected, 94 percent were black, according to the CDC.

Furthermore, the CDC has statistics showing that of a black population of one hundred thousand, 2,558.4 have been diagnosed with AIDS.

This means that of the approximate 328,564.45 blacks living in D.C., 8,406 are living with AIDS.

Yet, it is Boston University that has taken measures to protect its students, and it is not the only university doing so.

Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Northeastern University and Tufts University have similar programs.

Boston University student Molly Byrd said, "To be totally honest, it hasn't created that much of a buzz. I just heard about it earlier last week."

She continued, "It's the sort of thing people mention because it's recent news and then share a kind of amused laugh about. I think most students are fine with it. I haven't heard anyone complain about them."

Howard junior political science major Jonell Henderson believes that a condom machine would provide too easy access for students.

"I think it would make sex something that is too casual, like buying chips or something," Henderson said. "It should be more sacred than that. People should use protection, but the machines would increase the amount of sexual activity."

The condom machine has not generated any protests or outcries, and according to the BU Office of Residence Life, "The goal of this initiative is not to give students a carte blanche on sexual activity, just as its absence is not a condemnation of it. What it comes down to is that we want students to make healthy decisions."

"D.C., Maryland and Miami had the fastest growing AIDS rates and we're not promoting safe sex," said freshman chemistry major Ashia Williams. "People don't use condoms because they go try to buy them and the stores are closed. Although, I think they should be in a more discrete place like the bathroom."

The condoms at BU are packaged in a white, unlabeled box and costs \$2.50 for a pair.

"It won't promote sex," Williams said. "People are going to have it whether we have machines or not."

Byrd added, "I think it's a smart decision. I believe that they're in the dorms, which is good because it gives people one last chance to be responsible before they make it back up to their room."

'Trayless' Cafe May Make Meals More Eco-Friendly



File Photo

Students may find dining the Blackburn Cafe different next semester when a trays are removed from the cafeteria. According to Sodexo, the change will be made gradually and the Cafe may host "Trayless Tuesdays" to test the initiative.

BY KIERRA JONES
Contributing Writer

Some come in red or blue with rounded edges. Their purpose is to provide students, faculty and staff with a much easier way to pile on food while maneuvering through the cafeterias. But soon, they'll be a thing of the past: the old-fashioned lunch tray.

According to Monica Zimmer, spokeswoman for Sodexo, most campuses throughout the United States have already operated without trays for two years.

"On Earth Day we asked 600 colleges to go trayless for the environmental benefit," Zimmer said. "Trayless dining saves 200 gallons of water a day, per 100 meals served."

She said Gonzaga University, in Washington state, was one of Sodexo's pilot schools that managed to reduce their food waste to 50 percent by going trayless.

The general idea for getting rid of trays is environmental. Zimmer explained that without trays, campuses will provide themselves with a reduction to water and chemical usage, along with a decrease in the amount of detergent and energy supply taken up.

"For colleges that are interested in

going green, trayless dining is a good first step," Zimmer said.

January is the month designated for Howard to go tray-less, while already 40 percent of Sodexo's 600 campuses are trayless, with 230 said to be trayless this fall, said Zimmer.

"There's an initiative we're taking to go along with the trayless scenario," said Ellen Early, general manager of the Blackburn Restaurant. "There is a marketing plan in session. No date is set because we want to go about this gradually in order to inform students first."

Before the university takes this on, there are a few steps that will happen in the coming months.

According to Zimmer, an Educational Campaign will take place. Following the campaign, Sodexo will do a "Weigh the Waste" initiative where they'll put whatever the students didn't eat in a container to track the waste from each day.

Zimmer said also for one day per week, on Tuesdays, trays will not be used until the trayless mark (January) is reached.

"When it's crowded, not having trays can become a burden," said Ashley Thomas, a freshman pre-physical therapy major.

But, for other students that eat in the café in the Blackburn Center or the Bethune Annex, the idea of not using trays isn't an issue.

Three plates were on the red tray of junior, business management major, Jeffrey Fleming during lunch time.

"For students that are accustomed to using trays, it will be awkward not seeing or using them. But for upcoming generations it won't affect them," Fleming said.

Planning for the newly-renovated café in the Blackburn Center showed that just about every student had a tray in front of them, Early said.

Other students were grabbing trays moments after getting their cards swiped. Picking up the trays, to some, appears to be second nature.

The Annex café hasn't used trays since the beginning of the New Year. According to Peter Daudu, assistant general manager of the Bethune Annex cafeteria, most of the trays were also pulled because they weren't in usable conditions.

"There are benefits and deficiencies, but as long as students are getting enough to eat that's what matters," Daudu said. "We only use a few every once in while in instances where young ladies are injured – then we allow them to use the trays."

So you want report on Campus news?

Come to Sunday's 6 p.m. Budget Meeting and pick up a story.

Off-campus Housing Has Various Outcomes

Continued from FRONT HOUSING

educate student renters about their rights and make off-campus housing safer in the district. Through their Web site, thisshouldbeillegal.com, the DCRA has started a watchdog network for the thousands of students residing off-campus in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

According to DCRA spokesperson Michael Rupert there are about 8,000 rental properties being leased to about 12,000 college students in the District. With the District's high concentration of student renters, the DCRA decided to redirect their marketing to reach the

college demographic using the Web and viral media as well as social networking sites. "Our director Linda Argo wanted to reach students where they were, we wanted to have their attention," Rupert said.

The agency has also started a campus tour to promote their web site ad initiative that began at Howard University. With 35 percent to 40 percent of the student body renting off-campus, according to the agency, Howard University has one of the highest off-campus student-renter rates in the area. Rupert said the agency encourages landlords to visit the site and to get involved with the initia-

live as well. "We are here for landlords who want to rent [legally] and have their houses up to code. The point of this is to get a conversation going; we want this to be long term. The goal is to make student housing safe," Rupert said.

According to the DCRA students are more likely to rent from unlicensed landlords, putting them at risk for leasing rental spaces with poor plumbing and fire hazardous conditions among other housing violations. Through their Web site, the DCRA intends to inform students of their renter's rights and to curb the amount of unlicensed landlords in the District.

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CareerBuilder: Half of U.S. Lives Check to Check Survey Says Even Six-Figure Salaries Aren't Enough for One-in-Five Americans

BY ADRIAN WOOD
Contributing Writer

As the country continues to deal with a faltering economy, the impacts are being felt in Americans' wallets. A CareerBuilder.com survey has found that nearly half of all American workers are living paycheck to paycheck.

According to the survey, 47 percent of Americans are being forced to stretch their dollars further just to keep their heads above water. This is an increase from last year's 43 percent. Perhaps even more startling is the fact that the nationwide survey of over 7,192 people revealed that 21 percent of workers making salaries of \$100,000 or more report that they too are living paycheck to paycheck.

While Americans struggle to make it from pay period to pay period, they also are facing increasing difficulties saving money each month. A quarter of workers reported that they do save money each month; and 34 percent of workers set aside less than \$100 a month.

Yet, another dire problem facing American workers is the fact that nearly one-third reported that they do not participate in any sort of 401K, IRA or similar retirement plan—a strong indication



Wilfred Brown, 62, sits at the Chicago state employment center in April of 2001. He said every time the economy goes into a recession, black people are the first to lose their jobs. All-in-all, recessions are bad for everyone.

that workers who have struggled to save money on their own will likely be unable to retire when they become eligible.

About two-thirds of workers say they have a set budget each month. Senior management major Ian Hood said he is one of many Americans who does not set a budget for each month.

"Well, I can't say that I really keep

one anymore," Hood said. "Working has allowed me to have a larger amount of disposable income."

Hood, who works at City Sports in Chinatown, went on to say that he used to keep a budget when his parents were giving him money freshman year, before he started working. While he chooses not to keep a budget, Hood did acknowledge

that keeping a budget would help him save money.

Some Howard students use online banking to keep records of their expenditures. Sophomore engineering major Paige Mitchell-Spears said that she utilized online banking. "It allows me to see exactly where my money is going and how much I should be saving," Mitchell-Spears said.

She went on to add that online banking is useful to verify that she has money in her account when an ATM is not nearby.

While students may not be experiencing the same financial strain as many full-time workers, the economy is considered to be the most important issue this campaign season as Americans look to the candidates for solutions to their financial woes.

With no relief for workers or soon to be retirees in sight, many Americans will continue to struggle each month just to make ends meet.

Regardless of who wins in November, Americans will expect answers to help alleviate America's economic problems.



A 'Cuil' Search Engine

BY LINSEY ISAACS
Staff Writer

I'm sure I'm not the only one that does this, but every now and then, I like to Google my name. A couple of articles here, a Facebook page there, you know, just to make sure my name is in good graces for future jobs. (And a bit of shameless glory, too!)

But this weekend, I decided to do something different—I 'Cuiled' my name.

For those who don't know, and a reminder for those who have probably heard, Cuil (pronounced 'cool') is the newest search engine to enter the market pool. It was ironically created by a former Google employee, Anna Patterson and husband Tom Costello, backed by a team of former Google engineers. It has a flashy interface and looks great, but in my opinion, is limited in its computing skills.

Granted, it's a new search engine that has yet to gain popularity and is competing against Google, Yahoo! and Microsoft. The company's innovation is derived from the growing Internet and the need for a search engine to keep up. I'm all for giving the consumer more choices and opportunities. However, while Cuil boasts its extensive search engine and ability to search "three times as many [pages] as Google and even ten times as many as Microsoft," they lack relevance. While searching my name through Google may bring up articles from *The Hilltop*, doing the same with Cuil brings up a World War I draft registration roster. Cuil focuses on the content of their searches rather than popularity, which, in theory, sounds like the right approach.

But Google has proved that in many cases, popularity leads to a better search. And quite frankly, I don't see what the content of a draft registration roster from years ago has to do with my name.

But I'm going to give Cuil the benefit of the doubt—they're off to a good start.

And by that, I mean having so many pages under their belt to navigate through. Now, they just need to improve that navigation system.

Additionally, they provide privacy for their users whereas Google and AOL don't really care. Google saves information for up to 18 months, while AOL released the searches of their 638,000 users in 2006. Privacy matters, and in this growing industry where the internet puts our lives on blast, that is a wonderful company feature.

Cuil debuted in July with what is said to be a major feat for potential search engines to compete fairly against the top contenders. Many have failed in the past precisely due to not being able to index web pages without expensive computing equipment. Cuil uses a mere 40 computers to run their search engine.

Though it was overwhelmed with curious hits its first day, causing their low number of internal servers to temporarily crash, Cuil has not kept up the momentum and their traffic, up until this day, has plummeted. Added to the recent news of search pioneer Louis Monier stepping down as VP, the once thought Google-killer is back at square one.

Actually, make that square one-and-a-half. Monier, who is also a former Google employee, is said to remain a consultant for Cuil, whose face value has gone up tremendously since its debut—Cuil is valued at approximately \$200 million! Regardless of public criticism, the founders of Cuil will benefit in the end.

With time, Cuil has the potential to compete efficiently and take the search engine world by storm.

I wonder if Cuil can step up to the plate and do the same.

New 'Call of Duty' OK'd by Maker, OK'd for Adults by Psychologist

BY EVAN HOLLINS
Contributing Writer

On Nov. 11, Activision Inc. and Treyarch Studios will release the next installment of the successful "Call of Duty" franchise, "Call of Duty: World At War."

The sequel to the award-winning "Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare" will be released for the Playstation 3, Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii and Nintendo DS.

Set in the Pacific theater and eastern front of World War II, the game is touted to give insight into the second World War.

"We wanted to tell a side of World War II that hasn't been told yet," said Josh Olin, community manager for Treyarch.

Olin stated that players would be fighting in the American and Russian campaigns. Actors Keifer Sutherland and Gary Oldman will be the voices of the main characters as players lead their teams through Guerilla-based combat.

Olin added that the upcoming game will feature competitive, cooperative game play as one of the new multi-player and online features.

"We've added vehicles in multi-player, vehicle-specific maps and modes, more perks, more challenges...we're pulling out all the stops for multi player," Olin said.

The "Call of Duty" franchise has attracted a large fan base since the first installment was released in 2003.

"It's realistic, it's very entertaining. I get to play out how an actual war scenario would go down, and it's modern," said Ollie Montgomery, a Howard University freshman.

"I like the [artificial intelligence] system and I like the difficulty, and I like

the weapons, and graphics are always a plus," said Travan Hurst, a frequent player of the "Call of Duty" series.

Though the "Call of Duty" franchise is no stranger to critical acclaim, the franchise is also no stranger to criticism. Fans and critics have complained that the story mode is too short.

Hurst disagrees though, stating that the short story mode makes the series more realistic because many military operations are swiftly executed.

Olin said that the length of the upcoming "Call of Duty" is comparable to its predecessors.

"When it comes to length, we don't want to toss out pointless game play by adding more levels. We want to keep up the intensity of the story," Olin said.

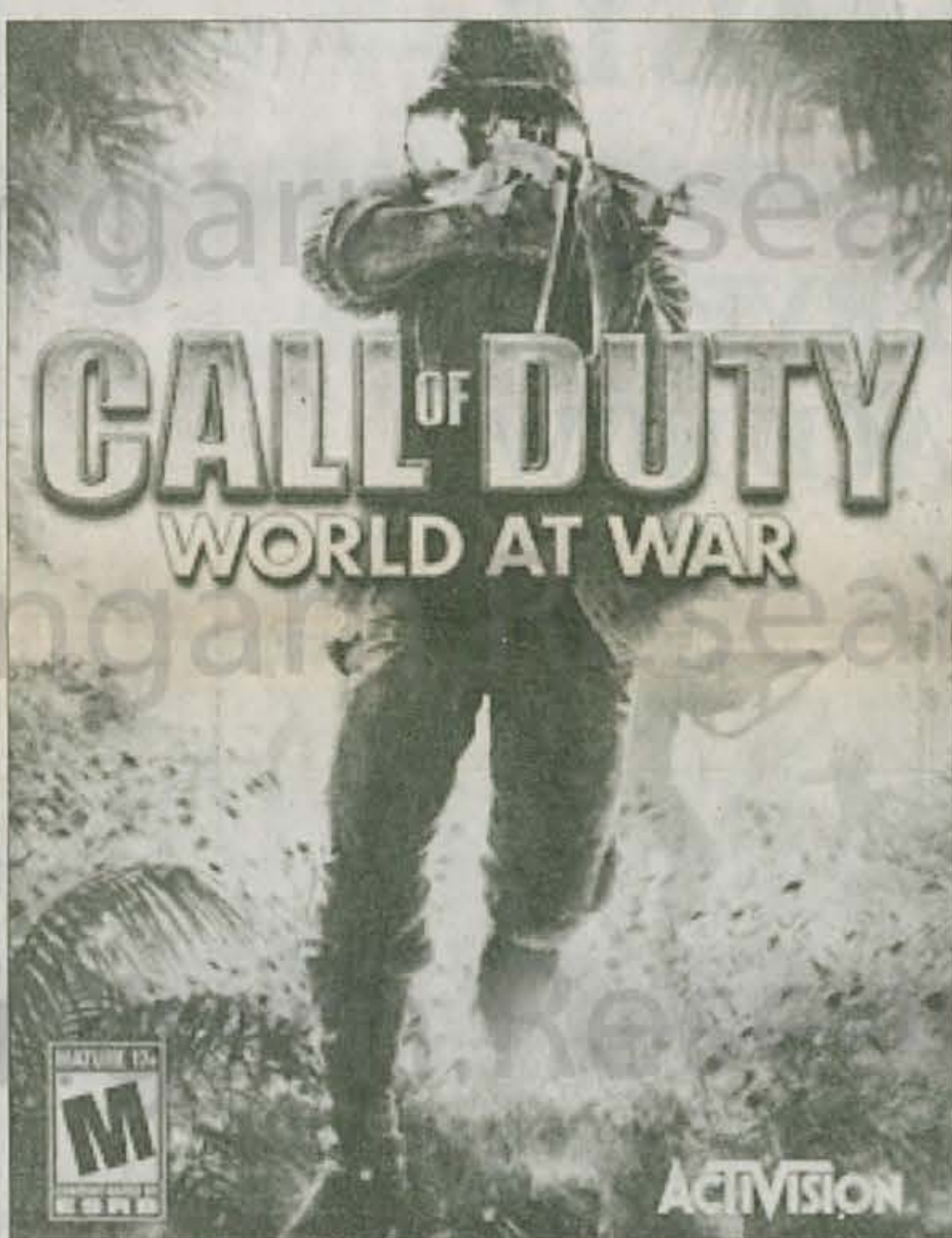
One of the other criticisms is that the "Call of Duty" franchise is too violent for children; but, Fran C. Blumberg, Ph.D., at Fordham University, disagrees.

"People have been playing war games for ages and people are not going to stop," Blumberg said.

Blumberg said that parents should be concerned with their children playing violent video games no more than the movies they watch or the friends they hang out with.

According to Blumberg, children are not the majority of people playing video games; adults in their late 30s and early 40s make up the largest percentage of people that purchase and play video games.

"It's a game about war. If you diluted the violence and made it politically correct, it would defeat the purpose. How are you going to make a war game that's not violent? It's the very nature of war," Montgomery said.



Set with a World War II theme, the November release of "World At War" is made with new multi player and online features. It has come with acclamations and criticisms.

Nonetheless, the "Call of Duty" series has continued to grow in popularity. Olin believes that "Call of Duty: World At War" will match or surpass the critical

and financial success of "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare" saying that, "Call of Duty has come a long way."

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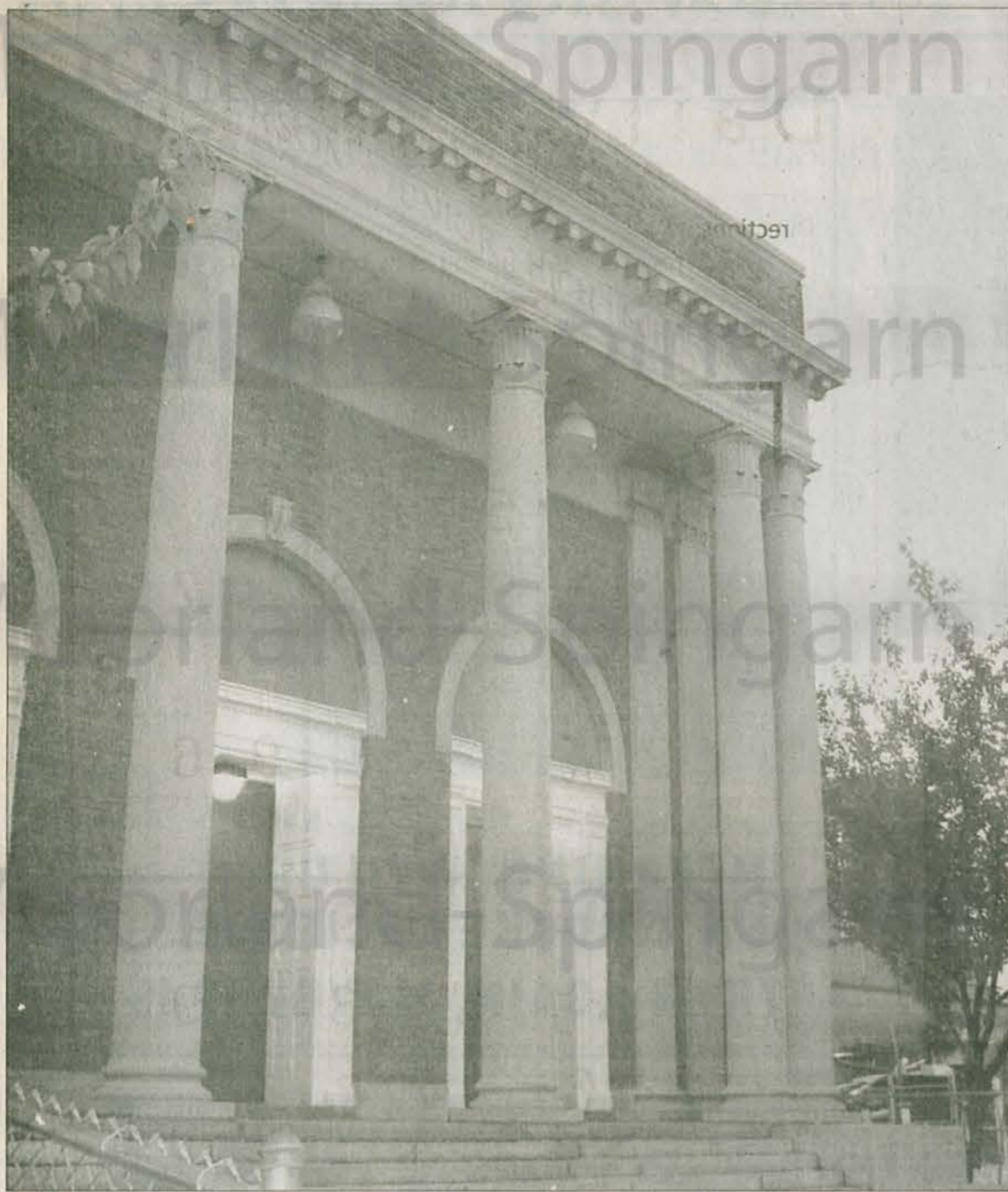
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Tyronne Clemens - Staff Photographer

In an effort to raise inadequate school performance levels, Chancellor Michelle Rhee has closed schools and fired principals in the District.

Rhee Executes Major Public-School Overhaul

BY NATALIE THOMPSON
Metro Editor

For 23 schools around the District, class will not be in session this fall.

As part of a major school overhaul program spearheaded by Mayor Adrian Fenty and D.C. School Chancellor Michelle Rhee, underperforming area public schools were shut down.

According to the mayor, the closings will free up \$23 million, which will be used to bolster academic reform within the remaining schools.

"It hurts my heart when I look at the data for Washington, D.C., schools," said Barbara Adderly, instructional superintendent of D.C. schools in a Aug. 27 community forum. "I don't know what happened here."

According to Rhee's Master Education Plan, in which she plans to create stronger middle-school programs and raise high-school graduation requirements, schools with low performance rates must be identified and restructured.

The plan also highlights strategies to intensify reading programs and to elevate academic expectations at the middle- and high-school levels.

In addition to school closings and other major improvements planned by Rhee and her board, 30 area school principals were terminated in an attempt to raise inadequate school performance levels.

At the first Chancellor's Community Forum, Rhee introduced residents to four members of her committee who will be implementing change on the

ground level. Adderly, along with John Davis, Wayne Ryan and Dwon Jordan, spoke to the parents and other community leaders at Sousa Middle School in Southeast D.C. Ryan and Jordan, the only acting principals on the panel, heralded Rhee's platform of aggressive reconstruction within the school system. Adderly noted that change is never an easy task to accomplish.

"I'm excited about what's happening here," Adderly said. "I know people were upset—change is hard for people. But look what change is beginning to do in this city."

For Ryan, a principal of Noyes Elementary in Northeast, the troubled school system can be credited to inadequate instructors and administration. The District's educational system has been known as a 'revolving door,' as commentators at the forum noted. Only a fraction of new teachers stay more than two years.

"I want Noyes to be the top school in the District. Is that a lofty goal? Absolutely. That's what motivates me everyday," said Ryan.

Though more than two dozen school administrators were let go since Rhee's overhaul, she notes that there are still effective educators in the system.

"We have gems of principals in our school system now," she said. "We need to use them to mentor other principals."

For now, D.C. continues to go through major adjustments as the reformation of the school systems continues to take effect.

"Keep your eye on what Chancellor Rhee is doing," Ryan said.

Education Expo Educates Parents About the School System, Getting Involved

BY MYESHA BELL
Contributing Writer

Families of D.C. students from diverse backgrounds gathered at McKinley Technology Senior High School this past Saturday at the 2008 D.C. Family Education Expo. This was a community-wide event and collaborative effort of D.C. government agencies and different community-based organizations. Workshops geared toward educating parents were held throughout the day.

"Leer y Seras! Read and You will Be," a workshop conducted by CentroNia, a literacy training group, emphasized to parents the importance of reading in their child's educational development.

Many of the workshops conveyed the importance of parents' involvement in their children's education and provided more information on how parents could get involved in their stu-

dents' schools. Also, advice on assisting Spanish-speaking families, accessing the school system and understanding school discipline were covered in the workshops.

"I think [the expo] had great resources and networks for parents," said Ayize Sabater, father of four boys who attend Bowie Montessori Children's House. "It is crucial for parents to be first educators since we are involved by default. Parents should be involved willingly and actively so their children will be positively educated. I found the expo to be a great opportunity, as I am looking to start a culturally-based charter school in D.C."

With the problems that face the D.C. public education system, formidable solutions many parents have invested their interest in are charter schools and

tutor-mentor programs.

Numerous organizations were visible and available to assist parents in choosing different tutoring programs

profit organization under mandate of Supplemental Educational Services, a requirement for schools that do not meet set testing goals under Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act.

"It is mandatory for programs such as these to be in place," said Chidi Ugorji, art director and volunteer coordinator of CES. "Mentorship programs we provide are designed for students' needs. For example, we have mentor programs for children whose parents are in prison. We are currently in 53 schools."

Carol Foster, an educator, taught for 37 years and retired in June 2007. Because she has taught at several area schools, she has seen many of the change-

es within the D.C. public-school system.

"With a new superintendent, everything changes," Foster said. "As communities are in need, [that need] overflows into school. There needs to be a change from the ground up. Throw out letter grades. Focus should be on mastering skills and then moving on to next skill. Mastery will insert a thirst for knowledge. We are losing ground with lack of desire for knowledge because [we] focus on test scores. Education is so important for people of color."

Expo coordinator Erica Louison said, "I am very happy at the success of the expo. The overall turnout has been great—most of the presenters showed up. Everyone [who was involved feels good], from the parents in the workshops to the partnerships of the community and collaborations. I hope we have a successful year next year."

"Parents should be involved willingly and actively so their children will be positively educated."

-Ayize Sabater

Kennedy Center Hosts A Night of Remembrance

BY GENET LAKEW
Staff Writer

On the night of Sept. 11, 2008, Black Women United for Action hosted "The Healing," an event dedicated to the victims and heroes of the 9/11 tragedies of 2001.

The concert, held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, also celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Slave Memorial at the Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens. Mount Vernon is located in Alexandria, Va., and was the home of the country's first president, George Washington.

BWUFA is led by founder and president Sheila Coates and is a non-profit organization based in Springfield, Va. She thinks the November election will determine how much the nation has healed.

"In some ways, the nation has healed; in some ways, it hasn't. The real test of the healing will be this election and what is happening in politics today," Coates said.

The Slave Memorial was built to commemorate the legacy of more than 300 slaves that labored the land of Washington's home. Designed by a group of students in the Howard University School of Architecture and Computer Sciences, it opened for public viewing in 1983.

"It was one of the most moving events I had ever been to," Coates said about the memorial dedication ceremony 25 years ago. "It was simple but very meaningful, and it touched the soul so you could almost feel the spirit of the ancestors."

The evening opened with two song selections performed by the Howard University Choir, under the direction of Dr. James W. Norris.



Genet Lakew - Staff Writer

James Criswell directs the St. Stephens and St. Agnes School Chamber String Orchestra at "The Healing," a commemoration of 9/11 and the Slave Memorial's 25th anniversary.

"I Dreamed a World," and "In His Care" were the music choices.

Norris, who is in his 35th year conducting the choir, continues to lead the group on the path of widespread recognition and prestige. He was clad in a white sash marked with the flags of various nations, representing the 17 countries the choir has

performed in.

"Music allows people to reflect and that's probably the most significant thing," Norris said. "Music plays a significant role in the healing process."

Norris was among the attendees during the opening ceremony of the Slave Memorial 25 years ago. At

the ceremony, he performed an original hymn that he wrote himself, in which he purposefully incorporated the last part of the University alma mater.

"How you do you know where you're going if you don't know where you [came] from? We [African Americans] are just always left out, but we have been there all the while," Norris said.

Following the HU choir was the fifth-grade choir of Jamestown Elementary School in Arlington, Va., which once performed for the Queen of England. For their last piece, the stage lights slowly dimmed and each choir member held an electric bulb in one hand. To the tune of "Light Candles All Around the World," the children waved the candles high in the air, reverberating a sense of unity and peace.

Other presentations included "What About the Children" and "I Love the Lord," sung by Juanita DaShazor. The St. Stephens and St. Agnes School Chamber String Orchestra, headed by Dr. James Criswell in Northern Virginia, performed several pieces as well.

The evening concluded with the Intermezzo Choir Ministry of Philadelphia, a group dedicated to "spreading God's gospel around the world." They closed the night by dispersing out into the audience, with each choir member singing praises of God, such as "God is Holy" and "Everybody Praise Him."

Choir directors Norris, Dr. Verolga Nix (director of the Intermezzo Choir) and Criswell were awarded presents as a token of appreciation for their dedication and service.

Metro Briefs

Bush to Visit Hurricane Ike Victims in Texas

President Bush said in a statement on Sunday that he will visit victims of Hurricane Ike on Tuesday to offer condolences and sympathy.

The federal government is providing 1.5 million liters of water and meals to displaced victims in efforts to rebuild the hurricane-ravaged region.

Ike, a Category 2 hurricane, hit Galveston, Texas and flooded parts of Louisiana's coastal areas. Although it missed major oil refineries in Houston and other parts of Texas, gas prices have increased due to the hurricane's landfall.

State and federal governments plan to keep an eye on plans to increase gas prices so that consumers are not abused at the pumps.

Gang Members Are Charged With Assault

On Monday, according to local and federal authorities, eight suspected members of the 662 Boss Piru, an alleged subset of the West Coast Bloods gang, have been indicted on charges of kidnapping, assault and forcing a female member into sex for money.

In early June, a female member who was four months pregnant, according to authorities, was avoiding other members when she was assaulted and forced into sex. She then reported the incident to a Minnesota Avenue Metro Transit Police. Not all suspects were arrested at the time.



Charles Metz III - Cartoonist

Forbes' 'Celebrity 100' List Lacks Accurate Representation of Blacks

The African-American presence in Hollywood has always been one of uncertainty and sometimes, even conformity and assimilation.

For years the actors, directors, producers and movie studios that made up Hollywood were not accepting of black entertainers unless they had a light skin complexion or performed in a way that entertained white people.

Today, blacks comprise a large majority of the entertainment industry but are rarely acknowledged for their contributions to the big screen and music industry.

This past June, *Forbes* magazine released its "Celebrity 100" list. The A-List phenomenon, which was created by James Ulmer, ranks stars based on bankability, talent and professionalism.

Although Oprah Winfrey ranked No. 1, less than 20 African Americans made the cut. Other A-listers included Beyonce Knowles, Jay-Z, Diddy, 50 Cent, Kanye West, Tyra Banks, Vanessa Williams and Tyler Perry.

A first glance, the list might not seem as alarming as it would after a second take. But what about the other African-American

celebrities who made their claim to fame long before the A-List even existed and who continue to create films geared at empowering and enlightening blacks?

Angela Bassett, Nia Long, Sanaa Lathan, Morris Chestnut, Omar Epps, Spike Lee, Danny Glover, Alfre Woodard and Loretta Devine (just to name a few) are all talented entertainers who oftentimes get overlooked because they are not as mainstream as

cosmetic companies tend to use.

When confronted about the supposed enhancements, L'Oreal denied all accusations. However, members of Beyonce's camp declined to comment.

The Houston native is extremely talented and deserves her No. 3 spot; but, this is just an example of what some people in Hollywood do to sell their products to people who are not black.

"Stars" like Ryan Seacrest, Lauren Conrad and Miley Cyrus could easily have been replaced with more deserving people.

To the disenfranchised, African-American entertainers who always seem to miss out on the A-list ranking: We acknowledge you and appreciate everything that you do.

To those black celebrities who did make the cut: We congratulate you and your Hollywood success; and we are in no way discounting your many achievements.

In the future, it would be nice to see a more accurate representation of the black presence in Hollywood on these lists.

Hollywood would like them to be.

Nothing is wrong with the celebrities that made this year's list, but it is quite obvious why some of them did.

Take for instance: Beyonce. She recently did an ad for L'Oreal cosmetics and appeared to be shades lighter than she usually looks. She looked just like the typical Caucasian girl that

Our View:

There are many talented African-American celebrities who never appear on the A-List and that is a misrepresentation of black talent.

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New Film 'Lakeview Terrace' Tackles Race Issues

Actress Kerry Washington stars in new film that addresses racially motivated harassment



TRUE LIFE: Wayne Sells

BY ALEESA MANN
Life & Style Editor

Lil Wayne, he's one of those artists you either love or hate. Some people hang on to his every word, others detest his entire being.

I mean, how much respect can you have for someone who always carries around a liquid drug concoction in a Styrofoam cup, has possibly the closest resemblance to a real-life black leprechaun and spits out curse words like a second language?

Yea, the odds are against him, but I admit I fall into the former category. Ever since he stepped on the scene with the 2004 Boys growling "the block is hot, the block is hot ha ha," I've been stuck.

Seriously, to say rapping isn't a skilled craft means you haven't listened to a word Wayne has said.

Part man and part mythical lyricist, Wayne has presented himself as a multifarious rapper straight off the corner of Apple and Eagle (Streets). He's made it clear he's much more than the profane messages and drug-induced verses that riddle his music. So, who is Lil Wayne?

He's a political activist. A New Orleans native, he captured the sentiment of a group of people who had been overlooked by the Bush Administration during the Katrina tragedy.

"So what happened to the levers/ why wasn't they steady/ Why wasn't they able to control this?... Same [stuff] happened back in Hurricane Betsy 1965, I ain't too young to know this/ That was President Johnson but now it's president (Georgia) Bush."

He's a sports commentator. "I'm servin' this track like Steffi Graf/ or Roger Federer/ there's no competitor."

He champions persistence and determination. A believer in the old saying "the sky is the limit," he promises, "two words you'll never hear: Wayne quit."

He's a keen businessman, doing "big business, minus the business suit," with a sublime work ethic.

"I'm never doin' nothing cuz I'm always making money."

He's also a supporter of safe sex practices.

"Safe sex is great sex/better wear a latex/cuz you don't want that late text/that 'I think I'm late' text."

Planned Parenthood might as well make him their poster boy.

In one of his most recent singles, "Dr. Carter," he lyrically resuscitated the hip-hop genre, giving himself his own Ph.D., and apparently he's pretty intuitive. His single "A Milli" was produced way before his sixth album, *The Carter III*, sold over a million copies in one week earlier this year, which hadn't been done since 50 Cent dropped *The Massacre* in 2005.

Wayne also has an affinity for metaphors, similes and word play that hasn't been paralleled since the days of Shakespeare. Yea, I said it.

True, he's glorified a rather unsavory lifestyle that I can't really defend. But while the context of his messages isn't completely wholesome, there is a cleverness to his approach that shouldn't be taken for granted. Plus, you have to give credit where credit is due. He's the only rapper that could get D-boys to say "lollipop-pop."



Patrick Wilson (left) and Kerry Washington (right) play an interracial couple in the upcoming film "Lakeview Terrace" opening in theaters Sept. 19.

BY ALEESA MANN
Life & Style Editor

She's black, he's white. They're newlyweds who have just moved into their first home. As they settle into the neighborhood, what is supposed to be one of the happiest moments in their lives turns for the worse as their next-door neighbor begins to subtly, then overtly, harass them. To settle the tensions, they decide to call the cops. One problem: he is a cop.

"*Lakeview Terrace*," a new film starring Samuel L. Jackson, Patrick Wilson and Kerry Washington, follows the tragic turn of an interracial couple's marriage as they deal with a man who does not approve of their lifestyle.

Opening in theaters Friday, Sept. 19, the psychological thriller provides insight into a situation not too far from real life. Wilson and Washington play an interracial couple trying to escape the racially motivated harassment of their neighbor, played by Jackson.

For Washington, the film was a departure from her roles as the foxy vixen in the tempting comedy-drama *I Think I Love My Wife* and the super-powered heroine in the action-packed *Fantastic Four*.

"There were a couple things that really drew me to the script the first time I read it," Washington said. "One is that I've never seen an African-American woman like this on the screen before. I really liked the idea of this kind of progressive, Berkeley graduate, Birkenstock-wearing, different woman. I've just never really seen anybody like this."

Washington continued, "The other thing that was really, really cool — and important to me about the script — was this idea of the misuse of power. Because for me what the film is really about is that we live next door to somebody who's harassing us and yet we have nowhere to go, because that person is part of the segment of society that is supposed to protect and serve us."

"*Lakeview Terrace*" also explores the social constructions of race, class and identity. With its true-to-life depictions of an interracial couple, Washington feels the film is a jumping-off point for important dialogue, addressing issues of honesty and communication in relationships to the generational changes in belief systems and the misuse of authority.

"I just think there are so many interesting things to talk about when you walk out of the theater, and things that we don't talk about in an honest enough way in this country," Washington admits. "I just liked that so much was different about this film, and kind of unexpected, and to me represented the changing face of America."

Washington, who has been in a few interracial relationships, finds that the role mimics some aspects of her life, but does not identify completely with her character.

"It's the nature of relationships that people have their opinions about who you're with and who you're not with," Washington said. "But for me, it has happened whether I've been with a black man or a white man."

She added, "I think there were things I could relate to about being in a relationship where you have difficulties that face you, but I would not say that I identify with the journey of her in terms of an interracial relationship."

Beyond the implications of interracial relationships, Washington feels the theme of the misuse of power alludes to current events — making connections between the theme and the nation's present predicament under the administration of President George W. Bush.

"[Our president is] somebody who we elected to be our commander-in-chief, with the idea that we were entrusting him to lead our nation, and we wound up in a war for no good reason with innocent people dying every day... What do you do when the person who is supposed to protect and serve you is actually the person who's causing you harm?" Washington asked.

"*Lakeview Terrace*" boldly tackles several major issues to which audiences can relate. While some movie-goers may be turned off by the film's stance on race and relationships, Washington finds that, as an actress, it is an integral part of her job to broaden the spectrum of characters depicted on screen.

"I have an amazing job and I love what I do for a living," Washington said. "I feel like part of my responsibility is to keep growing and to have my goals get bigger, and to just kind of keep working and to keep telling stories about... all different kinds of people in the world."

Life Expectancy Affected by Location, Income

BY JENERRA ALBERT
Staff Writer

Whether or not a child born today lives to be up to 80 years old or barely reaches 45 is dependent upon the country, region or community in which he or she lives, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) in their 2008 health report, *Closing the Gap in a Generation: Health Equity through Action on the Social Determinants of Health*.

The disparities in life expectancy have been largely attributed to health inequality and economic status by the commission.

The WHO report states, "Our children have dramatically different life chances depending on where they were born. In Japan or Sweden, they can expect to live more than 80 years; in Brazil, 72 years; India, 63 years; and in one of several African countries, fewer than 50 years. And within countries, the differences in life chances are dramatic and are seen worldwide."

The report continues, "The poorest of the poor have high levels of illness and premature mortality. But poor health is not confined to those worst off. In countries at all levels of income, health and illness follow a social gradient: the lower the socioeconomic position, the worse the health."

While the study's results are alarming, many students are not surprised.

"These are all very unfortunate circumstances, but...the economy is being driven into the ground and people are of low incomes. It doesn't come as a surprise that life expectancy isn't high and it is even less of a surprise that health care is one of the causes," said Claudia Ukou, undeclared sophomore.

Dr. Sherande Wilson of Help for Health Nutrition center in Fairfax County, Va. explained that ironically, certain living conditions, foods and a myriad of sources play into one's life expectancy.

Living conditions play a large part in affecting the body's immune system.

"Lower income families usually cannot afford proper heating, which exposes your body to the elements which will eventually break down your system," Wilson said.

Wilson added, "If a child grows up in this environment from adolescence



Jared Raines, 9, of Garland, Texas shucks corn to help his mother prepare dinner. Maintaining a healthy diet is one way to increase life expectancy, which varies depending on geographic location, health care availability and other major factors.

to adulthood, they cannot expect positive results. A home that does not have proper sanitization exposes the children to more germs which produces a weak immune system."

Wilson continued to explain that not having enough money to eat fresh, adequate food makes people resort to a lot of junk food which deteriorates the system.

"Not having nutrition wears the body down," she said. "Good nutrition is key for the body."

Fortunately, healthy eating habits can prevent some maladies and can result in a longer life span. Wilson explained that someone living in Japan or China may have a longer life expectancy than that of someone in England because the Asian diet consists of mainly fish and vegetables, while those in the UK mostly strictly eat

meat.

Not having exposure to some form of health care prevents people from keeping up with nutrition. People who are not able to take advantage of preventative measures or get nutrition for any health issues, are usually afflicted by ailments that could possibly be treated, but go without treatment because they do not have health care.

Wilson continued to demonstrate why areas and region form impressions on life expectancy.

"For example, in the case of fibroids, — fibroids are harmless but, over time, turn into cancer. Someone living in the city with health care would quickly have them removed and get proper aid. Rural areas don't have doctors or health care and they live with the pain," Wilson explains.

Someone with health care usually consults a doctor on a monthly basis so problems are treated before they are worsened.

Angela-Marie Hatcher, a sophomore international business major, recognizes the importance of a healthy diet, but also feels lifestyle is a major factor in one's longevity.

"Of course what we eat and how we are treated could affect the situation," she said.

"But," Hatcher added, "Nothing can better preserve a life than laughter, joy and the people we love. If we surround ourselves with people that make us happy and keep us positive, we can expect to live longer — which explains why regions of poor status and treacherous conditions can decrease life expectancy."