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BREAKING NEWS

GOP BRINGS BACK GAY MARRIAGE ISSUE
BUSH AND A SUPPORTING CAST OF REPUBLICANS AROUND THE NATION ARE TRYING TO USE A NEW JERSEY COURT RULING TO RALLY CONSERVATIVES, ACCORDING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LIFE & STYLE

U.S. CUTS FUNDING FOR AIDS SUPPORT
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CUT ITS FUNDING FOR AN AIDS PROGRAM IN AFRICA. FIND OUT WHY IN LIFE & STYLE.
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FRI, 10/27:
PM SHOWERS
HIGH: 51, LOW: 48



SAT, 10/28:
AM RAIN/ WIND
HIGH: 60, LOW: 45

Organization Fair Gives Students Information, Entertainment

BY TRAVER RIGGINS
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Howard University Student Association (HUSA) hosted the third annual organization fair yesterday in the Blackburn Center ballroom.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., campus organizations were able to showcase themselves to students looking to get involved on campus.

"We have this [fair] so that freshmen, transfer students and students who just don't know can meet with organizations and can find out what their mission is," said director of the department of student organizations with HUSA Ashley Smith.

Out of the over 160 organizations on campus, about 69 were at the fair with another seven off-campus community organizations like the Red Cross.

Freshman biology major Shalae Wynn joined the Red Cross yesterday for networking opportunities since she wants to be a doctor.

Students like Wynn took advantage of the opportunity to join groups that are believed to be beneficial to not only the community, but to the students as well.

"The organizations are

[here] to better the student body. They get them ready for jobs, the LSATs, MCATs and things like that," Smith said.

With almost 80 organizations in attendance, students were able to interact with the many state clubs, service organizations, and Greek organizations that were represented.

"It's a good opportunity for other organizations to network and possibly collaborate in the future," said sophomore public relations major and programs director for the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) Sakita Holley.

Students who were unable to attend the fair can still find information about clubs and organizations of interest. A universal calendar has been compiled by the Department of Student Affairs, a three-year old sub-department of HUSA founded by former HUSA vice president April Harley.

The calendar, available outside the HUSA office in Blackburn next to suite 102 and on the student organizations website, was added to help students with any questions that may arise regarding various organizational events.

"It was just added this year over the summer. We're trying to keep all lines of com-



Brittney Meryl - Contributing Photographer

HUSA hosted the third annual organization fair yesterday in the Blackburn Center. The fair is an opportunity for students and the organizations themselves to become more knowledgeable about groups on campus.

munication open for students so that whatever their needs are, we can make sure they are met," Smith said.

Students were able to enjoy music provided by DJ Anonymous and giveaways from trivia questions.

"It's like a party," said junior business management major Raasikh Muhammed.

"It's better that way than being all professional," Muhammed said about what he described as a typical Howard event.

Lauren Chapman, executive president of American Humanics Student Association, an organization that helps students looking to become involved with nonprofit work, said that the group's presence at the fair was an effort to try

to get the organization more recognition among students.

"We're trying to get our name out there and let students know that our organization is available to them," Chapman said.

New Health Course to Be Offered in Spring

BY EBONI FARMER
Hilltop Staff Writer

While listening to health professor Deneen Long-White discuss maternal-child health care, passion can be heard in her voice. Last night in Burr Gymnasium, a new course focusing on women's health was introduced to Howard students.

"The Health of Women, Children and Families," health course will be offered to students in Spring 2007 as a three-credit elective course. It is the pre-requisite for students who would like to be accepted into the Maternal Child Health Care (MCH) Summer Institute.

"The course that is offered in the spring will focus on the different health issues that women, children and families face during and after child birth. The MCH Summer Institute is a rigorous pro-

gram in which students will be able to obtain 40 hours in the different fields of MCH as well as a stipend," Long-White said.

Long-White posed the question to the audience, "True or False: The U.S. has the lowest infant mortality rates out of all the developed countries?"

The answer to this question is false.

"The United States should be up there and have the best infant mortality rate because we are the wealthiest nation," Long-White said. "Babies and mothers alike in this country are dying at astounding rates during and after birth."

Long-White also discussed the racial disparities when it comes to both child and maternal mortality rates.

"African-American babies and mothers are dying at higher rates than non-Hispanic whites. In fact, we actually

have the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the nation," she said.

Also discussed was the decreasing number of blacks who were enrolled in health-related majors.

"African Americans go back to their neighborhoods to practice their fields. The federal government has addressed the disparities in the number of minorities that go in to health fields. Howard University is one of four schools to receive a five-year grant to increase students wanting to go into the maternal-child health care," Long-White said.

Also in attendance at the meeting were the two women who will be teaching the MCH Summer Institute, Dr. Calloway and Dr. Roberta Hollander.

"We are really excited about the new course and the MCH Summer Institute," Hollander said. "We want to offer students who are really interested in maternal-child health care the opportunity to explore the different career possibilities, and we want them to eventually become our colleagues."

The ultimate goal of instituting the MCH course and Summer Institute is to have the study become part of the health department's core courses.

"We have discussed how we would like to take maternal-child health care to the

next level. Not only by having it entrenched into the curriculum, but also it becoming a Ph.D. program revolved around the study of maternal-child health care," Long-White said.

Students in the audience were very excited about the new program because of the many opportunities that could evolve from it.

Freshman biology major Dominique Diggs was one of these students.

"They are really trying to promote maternal-child health care and I want to become a pediatrician because I love children. The internship opportunity will give me the hands on experience I will need to get the job I want when I graduate," she said.

The maternal-child health care field is not limited to obstetrics and pediatricians. Psychology, sociology, sports and science majors alike can find career paths in maternal-child health care.

Sophomore psychology major Rachele Jones left the informative meeting with a new idea on where her degree could take her.

"My major can apply to maternal-child health care. There are many different opportunities in the field and the summer institute is very appealing," Jones said.

Long-White emphasized the importance of having a passion for the field to students who decide to enroll because seats are limited.

"There are only 15 scholarship opportunities for the summer institute, so we want students who are going take it seriously and get the most out of it, for those students who want to enroll in the course, it will be on BisonWeb," she said.

Phi Sig Dispels Howard Myths

BY MERCIA WILLIAMS-MURRAY
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Alpha Tau Chapter of Phi Sigma Pi National Honors Fraternity held a forum in Blackburn Lounge last night to dispel some common myths about Howard's campus.

"We really wanted it geared towards freshmen because there are a lot of issues people are scared to discuss," program co-director Shar-Day Smith said. "I know when I was a freshman I wanted to ask questions but certain things were so taboo."

With the forum being conducted by Mr. Howard, Jamel Franklin and Mr. and Ms. Arts and Sciences, William White and Alysha English, respectively, several questions were answered and some myths were dispelled.

One of the first issues discussed was the infamous male to female ratio on campus. Franklin said he knows for a fact that it's really 2 to 1 (not 5 to 1 or 20 to 1) and said "it's not that deep."

Many students, especially the women, often complain about the ratio.

"I think what makes it feel bigger is that it's limited... a lot of people live off campus, especially junior and senior year, so they're MIA. Some people are already in a relationship and some are focused on academics, as they should be," English said.

White chimed in and said if someone is busy it's hard to make time for a relationship. Franklin believes that it is particularly difficult

when one person is not as involved as the other mate. Countering these claims, one woman said that if the person is important enough, time can be set aside for one's significant other.

"A Howard man is an investment and will be a rock to the Black community," Franklin said in response to the claims.

He also reassured the audience that some men on campus want a relationship. "A lot of my friends are like 'I'm trying to settle down. It's my junior year; I'm looking for the one.'"

Another issue that was addressed was Greek organizations prohibiting people from showing interest. A member of Phi Sigma Pi simply said, "go to the programs and do your research."

The rumor about many of the men in Fine Arts being gay was also dispelled.

"There may be some truth to that, but every man in Fine Arts isn't gay. I'll tell you that," White responded.

Staying close to that subject, there was talk about metrosexuals and the way men dress.

Another topic included the standard men styles: the men who cannot dress, the men who wear "thug" attire, the metrosexuals, and the men who constantly wear business clothing."

One issue discussed was men who take longer to get dressed than women. Some women consider that to be a problem."

Another heated topic was the one about "locals."

See FORUM, NEWS A3



Tyrone Clemmins - Staff Photographer

Students studying medicine now have a new opportunity to study maternal-child health care with the new course being added.