Our Picks
Hilltop endorsements for HUSA and trustee positions

Your Reputation Precedes You
A look at the Hilltop Grades of Past Student Leaders

The Cost of Campaigning
How much does it take financially to beat the opponent?

Special Elections Issue

March 4, 2003
What Were They Thinking?
Campaign Highlights and a satirical look at the candidates

Your Reputation Precedes You
The past of Tarshima Williams, former trustee and current HUSA candidate.

Your Reputation Precedes You
The past of Charles Coleman, former trustee and current grad trustee candidate.

HUSA Endorsements
The Hilltop endorses Restoration with reservations.

Undergraduate Trustee Endorsements
The Hilltop endorses Jacques Purvis.

Graduate Trustee Endorsements
The Hilltop endorses Charles Coleman Jr.

The Cost of An Election
What does it take to beat the opposition financially?

Vote Thursday, March 6th!
What Were They Thinking?

Campaign Highlights

I should be studying right now....

Christian Dorsey, a candidate for HUSA was found to be ineligible to run after his grades were checked. Dorsey did not have the minimum requirement of a 2.0 GPA. Dorsey vowed to win the election through a write-in campaign, but later abandoned the idea.

I hope none of the candidates try to talk to me...

When asked how she would be more visible on campus, Paris Pickett, a candidate for undergraduate trustee said she would “take the long route to class.” Pickett dropped out of the race soon after the comment.

When asked how she would be more visible on campus, Paris Pickett, a candidate for undergraduate trustee said she would “take the long route to class.” Pickett dropped out of the race soon after the comment.

Ja'Ron Smith, current HUSA financial advisor, found himself at the height of controversy when a number of campus organizations did not receive funding. Smith's organization, the College Republicans, was slated to receive funding twice. Some members of the General Assembly asked Smith to step down as they felt he represented a conflict of interest. Smith refused but said he would not sign any paperwork directly affecting elections.

Which way should I walk to class tomorrow?

Tarshina Williams fought the stigma of her grade of a 'D' that she received in The Hilltop for the job she did as undergraduate

A 'D' is not THAT bad!

Whew! It's gettin' hot in here!

I have to win this race...

Elections Chair, Corey Cunningham gained the image of being unapproachable after he passed elections guidelines that did not allow candidates to speak with him or even enter his office. Cunningham said he would only speak with campaign managers.

March 4, 2003

The Hilltop Magazine
Reputations Precedes You

Undergraduate Trustee Disappoints Students

By Kenyatta Mathews
Hilltop Staff Writer

In her "Classic Blue and White" campaign for undergraduate trustee, Tarshima Williams stressed alumni development and promised to address student concerns about the merging of schools and colleges in last year's elections.

But half way through her term, much of the student body does not even know who she is, let alone comment on whether she has fulfilled her role as undergraduate trustee.

"I don't know who she is and it's a shame," Nicole Barr said, a senior political science major.

But Williams insists she is accessible to students. Having made her email address "public" to provide arena for student concerns, Williams said there has been no response.

"I've never gotten any emails and I've published my address twice," she said.

Many students said they do not know who the undergraduate trustee is, which prevents them from having an educated opinion or any reason to send her an email.

Instead of holding town meetings as outlined in her platform, Williams used General Assembly meeting as a liaison between herself and the student body.

"I didn't see the need to hold town hall meetings because at General Assembly meetings I can address the issues to elected student representation and find out what student's concerns are," Williams said.

As for the monthly newsletter she promised, Williams said, there was "nothing to report" although her inside on upcoming decisions on tuition and dormitory fees may have alerted student sooner to such changes.

Williams said she has worked to benefit the students in other ways. To ensure "program integrity" in the unique requirements of each school and college after the merger.

Williams held conversations with Provost Antoine Garibaldi. She spoke to President H. Patrick Swygert and Garibaldi about revamping freshman orientation to concentrate on Howard University history and their roles as alumni.

She sponsored a pep rally before the Howard/Hampton classic in September. Williams said she has used what influence she has to present issues she thinks are beneficial to the University and not just the student body—her job by definition.

"As a trustee, I evaluate all the information and make a decision for the University," Williams said.

Evaluation of the proposed tuition increase resulted in Williams voting against it during the second meeting of the Board of Trustees.

"I didn't think the increase was necessary," Williams said. "We had a great year financially and I felt if we could hold down tuition for one more year and give students a break, we should. That increase could mean the difference between a student getting validated and going home."

This gesture—in favor of student financial stability—assured some students that Williams is doing her job.

"On that decision, I would've voted with Williams," said a student. "She has made good on all the information and made a decision for the University."

See WILLIAMS pg. 7

Reprint of The Hilltop, January 30, 1998

Tarshima Williams is a candidate for HUSA Vice President this year. She is running with Ja’Ron Smith on The Plan platform.

Our View:
Williams' Performance Earns a 'D'

In her "Classic Blue and White" campaign, Williams promised programs that would create pride in the legacy of the University tradition among students.

She claims that we will see these projects in the coming months. But at the moment, Williams has become emblematic of the politics of Howard and insensitive administrators.

While claiming to bring professionalism to the post, Williams has lacked tact, by keeping students in the dark.

If you ask Williams, she has fulfilled her promises, but students won't see the result until some years push her to say what that means and Williams will likely quip that she is not aloud to tell you: trustee matters must remain confidential.

The truth is the trustees' actions are mostly public knowledge, especially those where the student trustee's opinion has weighed on.

But most students won't get a chance to ask Williams these questions because most don't even know who she is and what she looks like.

See CLASSIC pg. 10
Reputation Precedes You

Coleman Makes Lasting Impact With
R.E.A.L. Agenda

By Joi C. Ridley
Hilltop Staff Writer

As over two hundred students waited on the first floor of the Administration building for the result of their protests over proposed tuition increases, Charles Coleman, Jr. prepared to deliver some of the worst news of his term as Undergraduate Trustee. He had not delivered on his promise of avoiding a tuition increase and he had to come greet the mass of students who stood supporting him for over six hours. Although the average person would have stood petrified of the crowd, Coleman emerged not successful in his initial pursuit, yet triumphant in raising student activism to an all-time high. The image of a confident and determined Coleman reflects his entire term, one full of self-assurance, respect, and most of all results.

With the academic year practically over, Undergraduate Trustee Charles Coleman, Jr. of the R.E.A.L. (Reliable, Effective, Accountable, Leadership) Agenda has completed all of the points from his platform, as he explained in a meeting with The Hilltop Editorial Board.

“...I feel I’ve done a sound job of representing the students,” said the current Trustee of his work in the 2000-2001 academic year.

Coleman points to his three main accomplishments during his term, the first of which was the confirmation from University President H. Patrick Swygert that tuition for the 2002-2003 academic year would not be increased. Coleman also pointed to his role in making the I-Lab and Undergraduate Library 24-hour facilities. Coleman also referred to his work on the Trustee Development Committee, which focuses on the University’s Capital Campaign.

A large part of Coleman’s efforts have been centered on President H. Patrick Swygert’s Strategic Framework for Action II. The plan, which Coleman sees as being research oriented, focuses on the University’s service element of many University activities. As he mentioned that the Capital Campaign has been pushed back for a year due to “financial instability”, Coleman said that his main concern with the Framework would be the costs incurred to students.

“How much of the bill will students foot? Although students are somewhat accountabile, there is still a large part that the University can do to cut down on costs,” Coleman said.

When asked of the feasibility of Swygert’s plan, Coleman replied that he is confident in the President’s results.

“Because of what he’s done, I’m more of a believer. He’s already built two extensive libraries within a year and a half,” Coleman said.

Coleman also addressed a lot of student concerns that he was met with this academic year. These include the renovation of Drew Hall, the construction of a new student union, and increased parking facilities on campus. Since Coleman is actively involved with a number of organizations on campus, he feels that he has a “comprehensive understanding of the student body.”

Charles Coleman, who served as the undergraduate trustee in 2000-2001, is running for the graduate trustee position.

March 4, 2003

The Hilltop Magazine

See COLEMAN pg. 10

Reprint

Editorial: A Job Well Done

As the year comes to a close and students begin to look back at their time at their Alma Mater, chances are they will fondly remember this year’s Undergraduate Trustee Charles Coleman, Jr.

Coleman was elected to the position last year on a platform that emphasized reliable, effective, accountable leadership. Now, as he prepares to hand the reigns over to next year’s undergraduate trustee, it is clear that Coleman has achieved most of his original goals.

This year, Coleman helped bridge the gap between the undergraduate Trustee position and the students, raised many student concerns to the board, and helped forge a coalition between the student and faculty trusts.

Throughout the year, Coleman has proved himself to be a thunderous voice on issues of most concern to students. At the beginning of the year, Coleman began pushing issues such as parking on campus, more funding for the athletic program and decreasing the number of Interim/Acting around campus—an issue that has just recently been picked up by other campus leaders. All of the issues have since been addressed by President H. Patrick Swygert in his Strategic Framework for Action II. Swygert said that the interim/acting positions will be filled by the new University Provost (and not a moment too soon).

Though few may remember the sparsely attended Meet Your Trustee Night, the event did serve to introduce Coleman and Graduate Trustee Mike Winston to the student body.

Past trustees will quickly note that their voice in the boardroom is diluted if they don’t have support of the student body. Most often, students withhold support because they don’t know who their student representatives are. That is not the case for Coleman.

His occasional visits to the General Assembly and his meetings with the executive boards of the various schools and colleges should serve as an example for Undergraduate Trustee Breana C. Smith. Good leadership in the boardroom starts at the grass roots.

See WELL pg. 10
HUSA Endorsements

Hilltop Endorses Restoration with Reservations

After meeting with the HUSA candidates, the only concrete decision the editorial board could come to regarding the candidates was that we would not endorse Ja'Ron Smith and Tarshima Williams.

Stuck between Sean Parker and Maya Morton, and Daniel Blakemore and Faith Walls, The Hilltop found it hard to truly stand behind either platform because while they both had good ideas, neither struck us as completing the whole package.

However, the board decided to endorse Blakemore and Walls' Restoration platform with reservation.

Blakemore and Walls' platform, Restoration, promised to restore "integrity" to student leadership on campus.

Promises include establishing a code of ethics for student leaders, creating an interactive HUSA website, creating committees for the General Assembly to affect order and funding an intellectual lecture series.

We wholeheartedly agree that the General Assembly is a mess. Five-hour meetings where nothing is accomplished is not only unprofessional but a waste of time.

However, the Restoration slate focused too much on the inner-workings of student government and not enough on the actual students—those who the HUSA representatives are there to serve. We admire their efforts to reach students. They have set up tables on The Yard and hosted events in a number of dorms to hear the students' perspectives on the issues.

Daniel Blakemore and Faith Walls, were The Hilltop's choice for HUSA executive office, but only by a very slim margin.

Blakemore and Walls' friendly and seemingly honest personalities reminded the board of Selano Simmons, HUSA president 2000-01, who students felt they could talk to.

But then they disappointed us with their support of the new housing policy.

The Restoration platform, while a good start, left much to be desired as far as concrete goals for the administration. Blakemore and Walls said they consider themselves "visionaries" but we need to know what that vision is—and know that it spans beyond "Power Hall."

Restoration said they would work with The Hilltop to inform students. They will work to be respected among the student body and among administrators. But they seemed strong enough to stand up to administrators when the interest of the student body is at stake.

Parker and Morton impressed us with their clear-cut campaign promises. The Renaissance platform promised to create a student-run book bank, work to extend visitation to 24 hours, create longer hours for the Meridian store and allow students to submit 24 hour online grievances.

What we liked about the Renaissance platform was that the pair really seemed to look into the day-to-day issues facing the average student.

We liked the "leave no student behind" mentality and standing behind the Renaissance's idea that the new housing policy is unfair. Parker labeled the housing policy a "caste system."

However, during his term as president of the Howard chapter of the NAACP, the organization has not done much. What they have done has been poorly publicized and not as well attended as it could be.

We wonder if Parker would take the same approach to the HUSA position as he did with the NAACP.

Renaissance's answers were well rehearsed, possibly too well rehearsed. And we were forced to wonder if their answers were really coming from the heart.

Smith and Williams' platform, The Plan, sounded good. The pair wanted to institute a grant writing position to raise money for HUSA, create an off-campus housing referral program, evaluate the parking lottery and sponsor political trips, rallies, marches and bus rides.

The problem was not The Plan itself, but the people behind the plan.

Williams has a poor track record for student leadership on campus; she's known for talking a good game and not following through.

Elected to the undergraduate trustee position in 1997-98, Williams promised she would keep the student body informed through a newsletter and sponsor programs that would create "pride" among students.

Her campaign promises were never met. In fact, she proved to be one of the most silent undergraduate trustees Howard University has ever seen.

During that year a merger between schools took place in conjunction with a new core curriculum and a tuition increase. When it was time to release the newsletter as promised, Williams said there was "nothing to tell."

Williams missed one of the five speak outs held this year (at the time of press) cit...
Tarshima Williams

Received a ‘D’

Williams from pg. 4

think she’s doing a
good job,” David
Robinson, a junior
chemistry major said.
“It reflects the stu­
dent body opinion.”

However, student
involvement in the
Center for Excellence
in Teaching and
Learning, a point on
Williams’ campaign,
hasn’t been imple­
mented.

Williams said the
project hasn’t begun,
but when it does, it
will mostly be dealt
with by faculty.

There have been
no town hall meetings
and there won’t be
any newsletters.

Still, future proj­
ects include imple­
menting a scholar­
ship for student vol­
u nteer service on
Howard’s campus
and a reception for
Board of Trustee
members and stu­
dents in the spring.

Williams said she
is working, but most
rewards won’t be seen
for a while.

“Most decisions
I’ve had an influence
in will be seen in two
to four years, not next
semester,” she said.

Hilltop Endorses Restoration
with Reservations

HUSA from pg. 6

Williams. There are
times when she would
have to miss some­
thing.

Williams ran for
the position of
Graduate Student
Assembly representa­
tive for this academic
year and lost. The
graduate students
aren’t buying Williams’
rhetoric, why should
we?

Smith worried us
just as much.

In the speak out
held in the Quad,
Smith made the state­
m ent that Howard
University is a “busi­
ness.” When asked to
clarify the statement,
he said he is supportive
of tuition increases.

With student lead­
ers like this, who needs
administrators?

Because of our
reservations with both
the Renaissance and
Restoration platforms,
we found it hard to
stand behind either
one wholeheartedly
and with a clear con­
science.

But we endorse
Daniel Blakemore and
Faith Walls with reser-
vation.

We hope that they
will change their views
on the housing policy
and come up with
more concrete goals
for their term. We’d
like to see them take on
some of the everyday
problems students
face.

But The Hilltop
admires their friendly,
honest attitudes, their
effort to create a
smoother run­
ing student
government and
their efforts to reach
students and fi n d out
the issues.

Daniel

Blakemore & Walls

HUSA President & Vice President

VOTE MARCH 6, 2003

Faith L.

Walls

The Restoration Platform

Restoring Order by:
• Reforming the HUSA Constitution
• Establishing General Assembly Standing
Committees for Elections, Finance,
Student Advocacy and External Affairs
• Creating an Interactive HUSA website to
increase awareness and involvement

Restoring Integrity by:
• Creating an Ethics Code for student
leaders
• Forming an Ethics Commission to hold
student leaders accountable

Restoring Vision by:
• Establishing the Howard University
Lecture Series Fund
• Providing mini-grants to individuals and
organizations to encourage intellectual
advancement
• Forming the Howard University
Community Council to tackle substantive
community issues

Vote for New Leadership on March 6th.
Dan Blakemore and Faith L. Walls for HUSA

VOTE

Blakemore & Walls

Thursday, March 6th
It’s time for RESTORATION.
Trustee Endorsements

Jacques Purvis for Undergraduate Trustee

The Hilltop casts its support to Jacques Purvis for Undergraduate Trustee. The decision between the candidates Justin George, Kareem Merrick and Silas Cardwell came down to prior experience and preparation shown by Purvis.

Purvis made it clear his allegiance will be to students and is against future tuition hikes. In fact, Purvis wants to immediately address the issue at the first board meeting rather than delaying.

Purvis understands that an increase will be proposed but alternatives such as increased alumni contributions will help him fight to keep the percentage increase to a minimum, if inevitable.

Purvis is a member of the student alumni committee, which is working to improve relations between students and alumni to increase alumni contributions.

As President of Arts and Sciences, Purvis shows he understands the issues affecting student government and has concrete plans to unify student government.

Purvis' plan to use alternative mediums such as conference calls, online discussion boards and luncheons to meet with student leaders, shows he is sincere and committed to unifying student government.

His understanding of student government was magnified when he said "administration likes to split up student government and relies on that to operate and as undergraduate trustee I will not allow that."

To combat that, Purvis said he plans to use The Hilltop as vehicle to communicate by writing perspectives not only as undergraduate trustee but also as a student. This act was poorly attempted by the current Trustee Jalla Howard, who was inconsistent and whose column appeared only when board members were scheduled to meet on campus that day. The Hilltop hopes Purvis will strive to do better.

Purvis promises to communicate as much as possible to students with respect to the Board's privacy clause. He acknowledged the clause does not allow discussion on how other Board members voted, but would allow him to discuss how he personally voted and his opinions on the topics brought forth.

Purvis admits he does not know everything about the position but has already met with board members to better inform himself.

What lost the endorsement for Merrick was that he did not appear as strong on issues as perceived in recent speak outs. Although Merrick said he would lay his trust to the students, he did not have a concrete stance on such issues such as tuition increases.

Currently Merrick is leaning against an increase but wants to examine the economy in the months to come and then make a final decision, a statement that became the deciding factor when separating Purvis and Merrick.

Although Merrick is sincere in his approach, he doesn't show the same level of experience as Purvis.

George was not endorsed because of his inability to defend his platform. When asked how he would deal with failure, George was at first speechless and then remarked he had never considered failure and would be no more than "disappointed."

The Hilltop feels students cannot afford another failure at the position of undergraduate trustee.

However, George did demonstrate a strong understanding of the role of the undergraduate trustee. He said he is clear that the trustee is an elected official responsible to students.

George was against a tuition increase, but said he understood why it's necessary to bring Howard to a Tier I Institution.

George said he plans to have no allegiance to Board Members or administration other than the fact that he has a responsibility to report to them and said he is willing to take the wrath from Board Members in order to communicate with students.

George has concrete plans on using a website and The Hilltop to personalize communication with students.

Althought Cardwell said he wants to establish a good rapport with The Hilltop he has already gotten off to a shaky start.

When meeting with The Hilltop editorial board, Cardwell provided a minimal amount of campaign literature and was very uninformd on a majority of the issues presented.

Cardwell's stance on a tuition increase was weak and the only information he could provide was he was "torn on the issue."

Cardwell did not show a strongly involved with Fannie Mae might distract George from his primary responsibilities—students.

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Cardwell did not show a
Trustee Endorsements

Charles Coleman Jr. for Graduate Trustee

The Hilltop strongly supports Charles Coleman in his bid for Graduate Trustee.

Through his platform, The R.E.A.L. (Reliable, Effective, Accountable, Leadership) Agenda, the second-year law student plans to propel student issues and concerns to the forefront of the Board's agenda.

As undergraduate trustee in 2000-2001, Coleman was successful bringing a greater level of access to the now 24-hour iLab and ensuring that the Undergraduate Library (UGL) was open 24 hours, to name a few.

However, his biggest success was securing a commitment from the Board to freeze tuition for the 2002-2003 academic year.

In his platform, Coleman promises to form coalitions among faculty trustees for more effective voting power on the Board; host open forums and town halls to stay in touch with student concerns and issues; connect the boardroom to the classroom by bringing trustees to graduate and professional school campuses; and join forces with HUSA, GSA, and other graduate and professional student councils to maximize his resources and amplify the message.

"You have to know how to use your power as it best pertains to students," Coleman said.

Coleman is no stranger to being in such a high-powered position, as he previously had the opportunity to serve the students of Howard as Undergraduate Trustee.

"From his role as Undergraduate Trustee, Coleman already has the respect of the Board members — which is instrumental in accomplishing the goals he has set forth.

With the experience he already possesses, we believe Coleman will not be the type of leader who buckles under pressure or is intimidated by any Board members.

Coleman said his time spent as Undergraduate Trustee was a lesson in leadership and diplomacy and allowed him to gain the knowledge to effectively deal with the unexpected problems that are likely to arise.

The Hilltop strongly supports Charles Coleman in his bid for Graduate Trustee.

We believe Coleman has a better understanding on the role of Graduate Trustee, as he plans to remedy the main issues concerning graduate students. Some of these issues include addressing accreditation issues, implementing dual degree programs, and creating a reliable information network.

Coleman also promises to actively participate in University-sponsored town hall meetings and to continue to be an advocate on behalf of the students.

Although Reese is earnest in her attempt, Reese is earnest in her attempt, Reese's experience outshines Reese's newness to the position. While the ideas that Reese cited as a part of her platform, which include establishing a National Women's History Month, were noble, many of them extended beyond the realm of the graduate trustee position.

Much of Reese's zeal and political perspectives are centered upon two points of contention: the necessity of women in leadership positions and her assertion that with the present re-election campaign of her opponent, who is a law student, it is time for a change.

While we believe Reese to be passionate about her plans to implement positive changes to health care initiatives; push for interdisciplinary collaboration between graduate schools and act as a visible liaison connecting students, faculty, and the Board, Reese fails to provide adequate reasons for abandoning a candidate who has proven to effectively represent the concerns of students.

Moreover, Reese stood firm on periphery issues such as lack of women in positions of leadership and wavered on topics involving the day-to-day lives of students. While Reese stated that she is against the tuition increase, she contended that because of inflation it almost seems necessary.

While both candidates for graduate trustee appear personable and sincere regarding their respective visions, committed to representing the interests of students, Coleman's goals seem to be more clear and defined. He provided more information and a detailed plan for the future, which is what the final decision was based on.

March 4, 2003

The Hilltop Magazine
Loose Ends

Tarshima Williams Doesn't Impress in 1998

CLASSIC from pg. 4

Williams must be commended for voting against a tuition increase for next year. But outside of this, her performance is mirroring the dismal job of last year's undergraduate trustee.

Instead of proactive attempts to keep students informed, Williams sidesteps her constituents.

She has presented her issues at General Assembly meetings, but has been quick to tell students how little their opinions matter, pointing out how little tuition figures in the overall Howard budget.

When the tense issue brought up serious concerns about the University's community relations, Williams demonstrated alarming disregard for Howard's surrounding neighbors.

When asked about her lack of public accountability, Williams said there was nothing to report.

The Hilltop finds it inconceivable that in a year, when the major aspects of the Strategic Framework for Action took place, including the merger of the colleges and development of the new core curriculum, there is nothing to report.

The position of a student trustee is granted to those whom the faith of the student is confided in. With a statement like this, Williams is no longer worthy of the more than 6,000 undergraduates who selected her as their voice.

"I want to bring professionalism into the office," Williams said. If professionalism means we have a student trustee no one knows or recognizes, who doesn't feel obligated to students, then professionalism does not work.

Williams is quick to remind students she is a trustee-trusted owner—of the University, not a student representative.

With a student trustee who is only adamant about the administration's policies, she is absolutely right.

At the beginning of student-run-off campaigns last year, Williams urged students to look at the content of the candidate's platforms.

Perhaps in the remaining months of tenure Williams should look carefully at her own.

"Classic Blue and White" has become a classic example of empty campaign promises.

Charles Coleman Gets Rave Reviews in 2001

WELL from pg. 5

Coleman also addressed students' dissatisfaction with the University's contract with food service provider Sodexo Marriott. Coleman says that he has not brought the issue to the Board because it must first be brought through HUSA.

Coleman also said that he felt the University was not upholding its current status as a Division I research institution.

"As of now, we can't compete [with other schools]. But, we can't expect to get revenue from the school until we put revenue in," Coleman said.

According to Coleman, his plan for an early graduation/walking policy is beginning to take form. The plan, which is 75 percent complete, would allow students to walk as long as they can complete the required credits before the end of the following term. Coleman also pointed to the fact that many other HBCU's maintain similar policies. The policy would require the approval of the University Provost, as well as various department chairs.

"Students shouldn't have to wait an entire year to graduate because they are missing one class," Coleman said.

Coleman said that he has worked this year at attending as many General Assembly meetings, as well as meetings of the student councils of many schools and colleges. Aside from his accountability to students and the Board of Trustees, Coleman also works actively with other University student governing bodies, such as HUSA.

"HUSA proved to be much more helpful to me in the second semester. The first semester they dealt mostly with Prince Jones, but they were still willing to work with whatever energy they had," Coleman said of HUSA officials.

Coleman referred to instances where he and current HUSA President Sellano Simmons worked jointly towards common initiatives, specifically during the tuition increase protests on campus.

Another strong point for Coleman was the issue of interim and acting positions in administrative positions.

The issue gained widespread attention in the last few weeks. Coleman said that he has been pressing Swygert since September. Interim positions are currently held in the Student Activities.

Although he had student support, Coleman says that many students remained "tight-lipped."

"Students this year were a bit lazy, they weren't willing to participate actively," Coleman said. "I know I had a lot of student support, but as for vocal support, I was left standing.",

Coleman also touched upon alumni giveback within the Howard community. He said that the lack of alumni participation was not only because the University did not have an accurate database of alumni, but also because the University has not been aggressive in asking alumni.

Coleman said that he has accomplished most of what he set out to do. However, if given the opportunity, Coleman said that he would have wanted to award an honorary degree to Howard alum, Amiri Baraka. Baraka, considered by Coleman as a genius, is known to many as an acclaimed poet and writer.

Coleman said that he was not able to nominate Baraka because of scheduling conflicts and the eventual cancellation of the nomination meeting.

Yet, Coleman said that student unawarness is not because the information is not readily available to students. He said that those students who wanted to be active and informed had plenty of opportunities to be. Coleman feels that various programs and his public e-mail address gave students a greater accessibility to him.

Coleman points out that many students still do not know the function or importance of the Undergraduate Trustee.

"When looking for an Undergraduate Trustee, students must ask themselves will this person compromise student concerns? Will they fight for me with 100 percent of their energy? Will they be effective?"
Loose Ends
Jacques Purvis for Undergrad Trustee

UNDERGRAD from pg.8

clear understanding of the Board of Trustee privacy clause and said when the issue comes up, he would "ask" Board Chairman, Frank Savage, what he could tell students in regards to the meeting.

Cardwell fails to realize Savage's response will most likely be the equivalent of "nothing."

But what The Hilltop fears the most about Cardwell is that he may not be able to withstand intense pressure that Board Members like Artis Hampshire-Cowan have been known to apply.

Hampshire-Cowan has been known to convince undergraduate trustees that their allegiance is to the Board not the students. And the fact that Cardwell already believes as undergraduate trustee he is responsible to the Board first, it will only take a few stern looks and pats on the shoulder to put Cardwell under lock and key.

What shocked the Board the most was when Cardwell said it would be a "conflict of interest" to bring students' opinions to the Board since he is a student. His comment shows he does not fully understand the position of undergraduate trustee.

Cardwell claims his main job is to strategically plan for the university five to ten years down the road but contradicts himself when he said "I really do not know why we are trying to be a Tier I Institution."

The Hilltop board was left speechless.

If Cardwell cannot understand the importance of moving Howard to a Tier I Institution, how can he effectively voice student concerns that will include better research, athletic and dorm facilities, which are all components that separate institutions.

The Hilltop endorses Jacques Purvis for his strong stances on the issues, his understanding of the privacy clause, his ideas for working with and informing the students and his professional, insightful ideas.
On the Campaign Trail

The Cost of Campaigning at Howard

Ruth L. Tisdale
Hilltop Staff Writer

Howard University Student Association presidential and vice presidential elections as well as the undergraduate and graduate trustee elections are two of the most expensive elections on campus. With elections quickly approaching, many candidates are fine tuning their financial budgets for the rest of the election.

Candidates in this year's elections found that paying for flyers and posters consumes the bulk of campaign budgets.

“Because every Howard student has the opportunity to vote for the HUSA president and vice president, we had to make sure that we had posters everywhere from the Law School to the Business School,” Daniel Blakemore, candidate for HUSA president, said.

Blakemore and running mate Faith L. Walls have spent approximately $779 dollars on publication information.

Kareem Merrick, undergraduate trustee candidate, said that he spent about $400 on publishing flyers and posters.

Another expenditure that candidates encountered were fines levied by the General Elections Committee.

“Many students don’t understand that we have to pay for these fines out of our budgets,” Merrick said. “Some students were under the impression that there was a fund to help candidates, but that is not the case.”

Merrick has been fined $100 for missing a Speak Out and for going over the allotted time during a Speak Out.

Campaigning can be expensive for students at Howard.

Sean T. Parker, HUSA presidential candidate, said his slate, thus far, has incurred a campaign bill of $1,038 and received $620 in donations. Parker said that he and running mate Maya Morton have tried to avoid fines that to maintain the integrity of his campaign.

“I am pleased that we have only been fined less than $100,” Parker said. “If we win the election or if we don’t win the election, we hope that people will remember us for our integrity.”

Most candidates did not allocate money in their campaign budget for personal expenditures.

“I bought three suits and a coat for my campaign,” Merrick said. “Those purchases cost me about $400-$500 dollars. That money came out of my own pocket.”

Walls said the cost of buying new outfits and styling her hair for Speak Outs and public appearances were not included in Restoration Campaign expenditures.

“The new suits, ties and hairdos were not factored into our budget,” Walls said. “Those expenses came directly from us.”

One way candidates raised money for their campaigns was by securing donations and contributions from family and friends as well as campaign supporters.

“During the Christmas break, I asked for donations from my closest friends and family for my campaign,” Blakemore said. “For Christmas, Walls and I didn’t want boom boxes we wanted money to help our campaign.”

The Restoration campaign has spent approximately $3,093 so far.

Jacques Purvis, undergraduate trustee candidate, said that last year when he ran for executive president of arts and sciences council that he received donations of $400.

Last year when I ran, I sent letters to family, friends, teachers, and church to help my campaign,” Purvis said. “We needed that money to help our campaign run smoothly and also to help sustain us through all of the additional run-offs. This year, however, since I know more people, I have had to only spend $500-700 dollars on my campaign.”

Although some candidates used donations to help with campaign finances, other candidates used personal money to finance their campaigns.

“I did not receive any donations or contributions to the campaign so I had to pay for the campaign on my own,” Merrick said. “I have spent approximately $850 dollars for my campaign and that has come out of my paycheck. I have rent and other expenses and I have basically put a hold on my lifestyle to run for undergraduate trustee.”

Justin K. George also running against Merrick kept his cost of his campaign to $349.

“I did a lot of research to get economical rates for flyers and hand bills,” George said. “Each poster cost $1.35 while hand bills were only 15 cents.”

Ja’Ron Smith said he and his running mate Tarshima Williams have spent as much as $4,500 in their bid for HUSA office.

“Posters and Flyers accounted for $1,200, Suits $500, Hair Grooming $200, Dorm Sweeps and Food $700 among other expenses,” Smith said. “We funded with the help of donation from some business, but largely was from personal funds.”

Smith advocates for caps to be placed on the amount that candidates can spend on campaigning. In fact Smith suggest that the Office of General Elections should offset the cost of campaign materials so candidates can spend time campaigning on the issues.

Graduate Trustee hopeful Charles Coleman learned from his first bid for student trustee and tailored his campaign spending accordingly.

“While running for undergraduate trustee, I spent nearly $1,500 total,” Coleman said. “Although my material was nice, I also wasn’t able to pay my phone bill and went without service for most of my senior year as a result of the debt I incurred during elections. I vowed not to make that mistake again.”

For this election Coleman spent approximately $450 on materials, incidents, and other expenses for his campaign.