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The Hilltop 3-3-2004

Hilltop Staff

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Top 10 Ways

To Win a Howard Election

By Ruth Tisdale

Every year during election season, Howard students are bombarded with signs and posters from potential candidates who want to win their vote. These candidates spend thousands of dollars just to be able to sit in the Throne Room of Power Hall. Well this year, put your money away, because Dr. Ruth is going to tell you the tried and true top 10 methods of winning an HU election.

1. Wear Your Howard Pin

You see it on all candidates. Nothing smells more like power than that $5.00-straight-from-the-bookstore pin. It is necessary if you are going to show students that they should get out of bed and click a “yes” near your name.

2. Promise to Fight For Students

Every year students want to hear that old time gospel song called, “Let’s Hold Hands Together and Pray That Administration Will Listen.” You always hear this song played at speak outs. Students want to hear that you’re going to stroll into the president’s office with them when they complain about the rat under their bed.

3. Be Repetitive

Of course, we all know that students are stupid and can’t remember things after the hundredth time. So remember, every chance you get, remind students of who you are. Repeat your campaign slogan and name over and over again.

4. Always Wear a Suit

Nobody wants to see how a person normally dresses, no matter how real you might say that you are. Students want people to look the part of the high-class members of Power Hall. So, pull out that orange suit that Grandma brought for Christmas, and show the student body that you can welcome ambassadors to Howard.

5. Pay Attention to People You’ve Ignored All Semester

Now is the time to reach down to the common folk and talk to that disgusting girl in class that you’ve ignored all year long. Hold your nose and talk to that brother with the “needs-some-Listerine” breath. Make sure that you smile in the face of the person that you’ve been talking about too. I mean hey, no one knows you really can’t stand how her hair looks.

6. Promise to Start a Mentoring Program

We all know that people want a helping hand, so promise to give it to them. Even though you’ve been caught telling freshmen to move out of your way at the Punch Out.

7. Slam the Past Administration

This is a crucial one. Every successful candidate has done it, and you hear it at all of the speak outs. You have to say with all of your might that you hate last year’s administration, even though you worked on HUSA and made some key decisions.

8. Promise to Raise Money For Students

All students want to know how you’re going to create jobs by firing other positions and how you’re going to bring in funds that won’t really go to them. They don’t have to know that the money you bring in will go to the capital campaign and not fix the shower curtain in their bathroom. Don’t worry, it’ll be our little secret.

9. Do Something to Make You Look Stupid

You have to do something that separates you from everyone else. What better way to separate yourself than doing something that makes you look stupid? Put your baby pictures on posters, make sure you know absolutely nothing about the issues, and above all else, you have to smile like Barbara Bush and wave your finger during all speak outs.

10. Promise to Publish in the Hilltop

This is the most important thing of all. Everyone reads The Hilltop and forms their views on the stories. It doesn’t matter if you’ve never read a story from the paper, or know what day it comes out or where the office is located. All the matters is that you make promises you can’t keep.
HU Students On & Off the Political Scene

By Janelle A. Williams

“What’s the point of voting when none of the candidates fit my needs or interests?”

“Every vote counts. Why wouldn’t you take advantage of the right to vote?” Statements like these are often heard at Howard University, illustrating the varied perspectives of students on the importance of political involvement.

Last year’s Black Tuesday march and the move to support Morris Brown College, both led by campus organizations, are seen by some as clear evidence that Howard students are still on the political scene.

Ray Crawford, a first-year Ph.D. student studying international relations and Black politics at Howard’s Graduate School, argues that political involvement is essential.

As the president of the Graduate Political Science Association, he is actively involved in the mobilization of students to vote.

“I want to be a conduit between those who speak and those who need to understand what’s being spoken about,” says Crawford, who finished his master’s in Black politics last May. He believes there is power in voting. “If we don’t take heed, we are negating our responsibility.”

Other students agree that voting is important and feel the need to become more active in the political process. Brittany Hamelers, a senior political science major at the Mecca, is one of those students.

“I think that involvement is very important because as young people, we are the most affected by policies that politicians talk about enacting,” says Hamelers, president of the College Democrats of America, Howard Chapter. “Our parents are not going to feel the long-term effects. We are going to be around so much longer to experience the ramifications of (political) decisions.”

Through the College Democrats of America, Hamelers has worked in the administrative department of presidential nominee John Kerry’s office. Starting as a volunteer in December 2002, the Massachusetts native now works for the campaign as a part-time intern, while she finishes her last year in school.

Although Hamelers and other students are taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in the political process, others have an apathetic attitude about the state of national and campus-wide politics. Some students and professors think they know why.

Aisha Roper, Local Elections Chair for the School of Communications Student Council, believes her peers “think that because they aren’t informed, they can’t get involved.” She recently had to extend the nomination deadline for the secretarial position because no one has applied. “They figure they can’t make a difference, so they say ‘who cares,” says the advertising major from San Jose, California.

Professor John Davis of the Political Science Department believes controversy surrounding past elections may have contributed to the lack of political inclination among some students.

“Many people of color don’t feel that their interests are met regardless of what party is in office,” says Davis, who allows students to formulate their own political views. He believes that apathetic attitudes are a “sign of the times.” “In terms of protest, there is no ethnic group that does it better,” says Davis, a Memphis State University graduate. “But in terms of politics, Black leaders often do not speak to our issues. There is a big disconnection between what is said and what is actually done.”

Robert Smith, Howard University alumni, explored the lack of unity and support for Black leaders in We Have No Leaders. Smith maintains that Black leadership has failed to develop organizations, strategies and programs that truly address the complex problems facing Blacks in this century.

Ray Crawford believes that the 1980s destroyed communal relationships that once existed. He asserts that the Black community is working towards individualistic, not collective goals.

“We don’t really care because it doesn’t directly affect us. But the truth is that it does because we are all one in the same.”

Brittany Hamelers agrees. “As Black students, we sit around in class, discussing problems the Black community faces. Instead of discussing problems, we need to do something about it.”
By Janelle Williams

Dr. Franklin Chambers and William Keene have more in common than their positions in the Office of the Vice Provost for Student Affairs. Both men are paying forward, lessons they learned while serving as student leaders during their undergraduate years.

Sitting in his office in the Administration Building, accented by dark-colored furniture and bold colors, Franklin Chambers, Vice Provost for Student Affairs, has come full circle in his profession. A 1990 graduate of California State University, Northridge, Chambers feels honored to be at this point in his career.

"I have been blessed to follow the career path that I have chosen, says Chambers. The appearance of deviation on the surface better prepared me for the next challenge.

Chambers attributes his professional success to his involvement in student government. During undergrad, he was active in student government activities and was appointed parliamentarian for the Black Student Union (BSU) at his university, which elected its first black student body president in 1989.

We were very active. The Black Student Union's funds were cut significantly by the University Senate, said Chambers. We rallied about 300 students to march. I realized at that point that students have a powerful voice.

William Keene, Special Assistant to the Vice Provost, also believes that student government is very important to the success of a university.

"Student government is good for the administration because it gives university officials a bonafide group of leaders to work with, says Keene. This aspect is often overlooked, but it is difficult for the University to operate without a student government.

During his junior and senior year at Howard University, Keene served as Chairman of the Student Assembly, before the emergence of the Howard University Student Association (HUSA). Keene helped prompt the student revolt of the 1960s, which eventually resulted in a take-over of the Administration Building. He believes that the student revolution created a new university environment, moving student leaders to take more control and rely less on the administration for guidance. This feeling of independence has changed and students began to seek help from administrators. Keene believes there is a happy medium now.

Students are more aware and sophisticated than we were. They are less naïve about how society works, says Chambers, who describes Howard as a student-sensitive university.

Keene also acted as president and treasurer of the Zeta Phi Chapter of the Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity, where he helped organize tutoring sessions, fundraisers and a number of community service activities.

One of Keene's most memorable experiences as a student leader was the 1964 trip to the World's Fair in New York he attended with young black males living in an orphanage located on Euclid St. and Georgia Ave. He says the boys were ecstatic and amazed about their trip.

Despite the argument that student leaders at Howard need to be more involved in the surrounding community, Keene commends the involvement that does exist.

It is a double-edged sword. There are some statistics that show Howard students are involved in the community despite the fact that students here have part-time jobs at higher percentages than other students, says Keene.

Keene, who has worked as Associate Director of Student Activities, Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Residence Life and Director of International Student Services, argues that today's generation is less confrontational because they are not as sensitized to the underlying issues facing the Black community.

Without conveying criticism when things go well people tend to be complacent. That's just human behavior, says Keene. The percentage of complacent students is more now than in the late 1960s.

Although Chambers agrees that many students are apathetic, he attributes these feelings to societal political attitudes. Political activism on our campus is reflective of our society. Students are apathetic no more than society.

Both Chambers and Keene maintain that students and administrators need to keep an open dialogue to promote political activism among Howard students. Get to know the administration and let them get to know you, says Chambers. I would like to be a positive influence on students after me, adds Keene.
Power Hall

More Than a Hallway

By Ashley Kelly

To some it is simply a hallway, with dark blue carpet and pictures plastered on the walls. But over the years, it has been recognized as much more. It has been molded into a symbol of power.

Power Hall, located in the Blackburn Center, houses many of Howard's student organizations, including Howard University Student Association (HUSA), the Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) and the Caribbean Student Association (CSA).

Although the organizations on the hall don't publicly exclude students, some feel unwelcome.

"They're isolated. The doors are always closed and you don't know who to talk to," said sophomore acting major Arizona Newsom. "When you go down the hall you really don't see anyone; they seem to be hiding in corners."

Roberta Mcleod, director of the Blackburn Center since 1980, said students should not feel excluded from the activities on Power Hall.

"It doesn't mean that people are trying to be better than anybody or that they are looking down on anyone," explained Mcleod. "The concept is that it is your [the students] governing body."

Junior biology major Michael Fisher agrees.

"I believe it is a bunch of proactive students who are trying to make a change at the University... and are making moves to try to do the necessary changes," Fisher said.

While some students believe that Power Hall is simply a hall that houses all student government organizations, others believe it is difficult to become involved in student politics if you don't know individuals on Power Hall.

Ebony Meeks, sophomore public relations major, recalls volunteering her freshman year, but not feeling as though she had the power to play a major role.

"It doesn't intentionally exclude students, but you have to be a friend or know someone to really make an impact or be significant on Power Hall," explained Meeks.

Although students have mixed views about Power Hall, Faith Walls, vice president of HUSA, believes it should be viewed as an inviting place for all students.

"I don't know what students feel, but I know what I want them to feel," explained Walls. "They should be able to feel like these people are there to represent them, but also understanding that if there were no them there'd be no us."

Carol Shelton, director of Student Activities and Howard alum, said that Power Hall is slightly different from when she was a student.

"It was more of a welcoming environment...It was an honor to be there," explained Shelton, who served as vice coordinator of UGSA. "It was also a challenge to be there because you always had something to prove. Your reputation was at stake."

Other Howard alums such as Theo Spencer, who graduated from Howard in 1999, said that the hall symbolized more "power" then it does today because the mentality of the students was different.

"I think it's just a function of the student body now. Back then, it was a different type of student. I think students now are much more into themselves," Spencer said.

Junior political science major Robert Anderson said that students are not taking advantage of the potential that Power Hall has to create change.

"I feel that it is an open voice for students to get their voices heard and make things happen," explained Spencer, student advocacy coordinator of HUSA. "However I don't think the general consensus around campus is that student government is relevant. I think Power Hall is open and it is up to students to make it the organ that it should be."

Aside from some students belief that Power Hall is exclusive, senior political science major Robert Boone said that the hall has a greater function.

"It represents the opportunity to help the student body and Howard grow as a whole."
ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL...

Adam Guthrie and Nubia Murray
School of B. Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates

La'Cher Nicholson
School of C. Secretary Candidate

Courtney Nelson
College of Arts & Sciences UGSA Representative Candidate

Darren Harris and Christynn Paige
School of B. Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates

Jana Homes
College of Arts & Sciences Treasurer Candidate

Byron Stewart and Kadia Edwards
School of C. Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates

R. Derek Collier
College of Medicine Presidential Candidate

Anthony Watson
School of Business UGSA Representative Candidate
...ON THE CAMPAIGN

Undergraduate Trustee Candidate J.P. Howard

HUSA Presidential Candidate Spencer Chenier

Graduate Trustee Candidate Alexander Hamilton

HUSA Presidential Candidate Jason Ravin

HUSA Presidential Candidate Conrad Woody

Graduate Trustee Candidate Miesha Darrough

Undergraduate Trustee Candidate Chequan Lewis

HUSA Presidential Candidate Tahman Bradley
The Elections Bunch

Superlatives

Must be from the Mid West
Most Studious
2012 HUSA Hopeful
Most Likely to Save Morris Brown

Mr. Napoleon
Most Likely to Become a Rock Star
Most Likely to Watch Pee Wee Herman
Where Did She Come From?

Most Sensitive
Always a Bridesmaid Never a Bride
Most Uninformed
Johnny Blaze
The Hilltop Bunch

The Hilltop: Most Likely to Misspell People, Places and Things

Most Likely to Wear a Knit Sweater
Most Likely to watch SportsCenter 3 Times a Day
When Are You Graduating?
Most Likely to Be at Church

Most Likely to Oppose Student Leader Pay Cuts
Most likely to spit 40 bars
Most Likely to Really be a College Drop Out
Most Likely to Ask a Dumb Question

Most Likely to Tell Life Story to a Stranger
What Do you Do?
Most Likely to Join Ubiquity
Where Do you Shop?
The Hilltop Endorses

Tahman Bradley and Alexis Logan

For HUSA President & Vice President

The Hilltop endorses Tahman Bradley and Alexis Logan for Howard University Student Association (HUSA) president and vice-president. Formally stated, The Movement plans to initiate a movement that will enrich the social and academic quality of the HU experience by increasing the effectiveness of student government, encouraging and organizing student advocacy and promoting excellence in education, thereby addressing the collective concerns of all Howard University students.

What attracted us to The Movement was their United Council of Student Organizations, their seemingly genuine dedication to refocusing student government and the experience both candidates seem to possess through their past prospective leadership roles on this campus. We were also impressed with this campaign’s resilience and strength during the speak outs, where they were often stereotyped by some as the underdog.

In a close second place was the JT Project, with HUSA presidential candidate Jason Ravin and vice-presidential candidate Taron Johnson. With high aspirations for their platform we do not support them as HUSA President and Vice President.

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HUSA Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates Tahman Bradley and Alexis Logan

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The Hilltop Endorses

**J.P. Howard**

For Undergraduate Trustee

Undergraduate Trustee Candidate J.P. Howard

The Hilltop casts its support to J.P. Howard for Undergraduate Trustee. Through his platform, Howard has shown strong potential not only for working for students, but also with them, to get the job done.

The points on Howard's platform, Common Sense include communication, funding, work-study, academic programs, and international concerns. Howard recognizes that communication is a major concern at this university. He proposed a heavier utilization of the Hilltop, a monthly newsletter from the Undergraduate Trustee, and increased communication with HUSA and student councils. Unlike past Undergraduate Trustees, Howard stated that he wanted to communicate with students, but also with the Hilltop to produce stories, not just perspectives. He wants to implement an electronic newsletter from the Undergraduate Trustee, which seems like a practical and affordable way to disperse information.

Howard proposed work-study increases to help alleviate the problem that tuition increases will pose for students. He sees this as a way to help cut costs for the University, as well as aid students in the arduous task of paying for school. When it is our work that makes the school run we achieve a better quality of service for students and a better experience therein, Howard stated.

To help improve the quality of service at the University, Common Sense calls for the implementation of a Choose Your Own Major program. Howard believes that such a program will allow students to attend the University even if their intended major is not offered. Overall, J.P. Howard seems to be very knowledgeable about his position, responsibilities, and the changes he wants to make. He seems to have done his homework, but most importantly, he has given the impression that he is willing to learn and can admit his shortcomings. Howard seems prepared to fill the ever-important role of Undergraduate Trustee. His information does not seem sugar-coated, nor does it seem like a slew of promises. Howard offers feasible solutions to every problem he found within the university.

What lost the endorsement for Chequan Lewis was the lack of evidence of follow-through in his platform. Lewis proposes an Advisory Council to provide advisement on how to stay in touch with the student body. Additionally, Lewis wants to implement a Trustee Informational website, but offers no explanation for how these things will be funded.

Ultimately, J.P. Howard seems like a highly prepared candidate who has real solutions to Howard's real problems and is ready to take those solutions as well as student viewpoints and concerns to the Boardroom.

It is for these reasons that the Hilltop endorses J.P. Howard for Undergraduate Trustee.

The Hilltop Endorses

**Alexander Hamilton with reservation**

For Graduate Trustee

Grad. Trustee Candidate Alexander Hamilton

After careful consideration, the Hilltop endorses with reservation Alexander Hamilton, Ph. D, for Howard University Graduate Trustee. With an extensive list of credentials including a B.S. in Mathematics from Morris Brown, Masters in Education from Georgia State University, a middle school and secondary mathematics teacher certification from the Georgia professional commission, and a Ph. D of Philosophy of Higher Education Administration and Policy from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, he is now pursuing a Juris Doctorate from Howard University's School of Law. Hamilton's platform is based on two major themes; there can exist collective development amongst all graduate programs within the University, and that by creating an inclusive community of graduate and professional students we can foster interdisciplinary discourse and collaboration.

Hamilton hopes to address issues surrounding raising funds for greater library resources in the School of Divinity, improved science and technical equipment in the School of Engineering, Architecture, and Computer Science and attracting greater student retention in the Schools of Law and Medicine. With previous experience as the Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Administration at the University of Illinois in 2002 and Chairman of the Decorum and Conduct Commission at Morris Brown College from 1999-2000, we believe Mr. Hamilton has more than enough experience to not only formulate plans for change at this University, but follow through.

Our reservations stem more from his ability to communicate with students. We are concerned that he will be unable to empathize with the concerns of Graduate students and make them his own. We are also concerned that Hamilton's biggest priority is saving Morris Brown, his Alma Matter, and not helping Howard.

Miesha Darrough, Graduate Student Trustee candidate, graduated magna cum laude with a B.B.A. in marketing from Howard and is now pursuing a Juris Doctorate from Howard University's School of Law. Entitled C.A.R.E., Darrough platforms emphasizes the need for programs such as town hall meetings, working to increase alumni support, and working to ensure the quality of academic programs at the graduate level. Although her concerns and ideals were quite similar to those expressed by Mr. Hamilton, her lack of experience and self-confidence lost her the endorsement.

Although we liked her strong affection for Howard, The Hilltop endorses Alexander Hamilton with reservation for Graduate Student Trustee.
Show Me the Money

Student Leaders’ Salaries Explained

By Stacey Gates

Student leadership at Howard University is hardly an easy task. Howard University provides student leaders with real world experiences and the compensation is generous.

Student leaders maintain $200,000 plus budgets, manage a staff of their peers, and often work 40 plus hours. Additionally, they have full-time course loads and balance their life outside of Howard. These positions can be so demanding that students don’t have the time to get part-time jobs.

The stipends for student leaders vary according to the budget decisions of their respective governing boards, which are made up of students and school officials.

The stipends of the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) president and vice president are decided by the General Assembly, which consists of the Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) and Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) members. The HUSA president and vice president are non-voting members of the General Assembly.

Under Article VII, Clause E of the HUSA Constitution, “the President and the Vice President’s stipend shall not exceed the amount announced every year by the Office of Financial Aid and Student Employment as the average cost for a student to attend that particular school or college in which he is enrolled.”

Current HUSA President Daniel Blakemore acknowledges the need for stipends, but is also conscious of the fact that students will hold them responsible for performing their duties.

“I believe that student leaders should be paid for their services to the student body and the University; however, there must be some accountability on the part of the student body to demand a certain level of quality for their money invested in these organizations.”

At Howard, UGSA and GSA coordinator budgets are approved in their general body meetings. The Arts and Sciences Student Council also uses the same system to decide their budget. The budgets include the stipends of the executive staff.

“Some of the stipends have really gone overboard. They exceed what tuition would be,” said Acting Dean for Student Life and Belinda Lightfoot Watkins.

The executive staff determines the School of Communications and School of Business’ budgets. Voting members of the general body vote on the budget for the School of Communications Student Council. The budget includes the salaries of the executive board.

The Bison Policy Board approves the budget, chooses the editor-in-chief and managing editor, and sets overall policy for the Bison. In addition to student activities funding, the Yearbook brings in advertising dollars.

The Hilltop Policy Board controls the stipends of the executive staff. The Hilltop editor-in-chief and managing editors, Arts & Sciences Student council president and treasurer, Homecoming chair and treasurer, and UGSA/GSA coordinator budgets are approved directly from the student association president.

The salaries of student government officers came from the $1,3 million that is given to student organizations on campus annually. With student leaders cutting their salaries completely, this gives that money back to the campus organizations.

At George Washington University, the president and vice president receive their stipends through university scholarships, which come in the form of credits toward their tuition. The student association president receives a credit of $11,000 and the vice president receives $5,500. Other compensated members of the George Washington student association is the vice president of financial affairs, who receives $3,000, paid directly from the student association.

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<th>Student Leaders’ Salaries 2003-2004</th>
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<td><strong>HUSA President &amp; Vice-President</strong></td>
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* Salaries are before taxes and based on a 16 pay-period cycle, with the exception of The Hilltop, Elections Chair and Homecoming staff. **Stipends are based on a points system, where points are attained through regular attendance to meetings and specific events throughout the year.**

Elections Issue
It’s All About the Benjamins Baby!
Average Student

- Backpack containing crumpled paper and phonebook
- Ill-fitting ball cap from team he's never supported
- Mountain Dew
- Shirt bought with money for calculus textbook
- Kicks bought with housing deposit
Student Leader

Closely cropped haircut unlikely to offend anyone.

All-business suit.

Wednesday's tie.

Briefcase containing crumpled paper and phone book.

Pin too small to read.
If You Were HUSA President

Ryan K. Smith
Sophomore
RTVF

"I would inform students on how their money is being put to use."

Dorien Pinales
Freshman
English

"I would make sure all organizations have decent funding for their programs."

Jessie McDaniel
Sophomore
Political science

"I would implement open forums where administration and students converse to improve the university."

Chablis Jenkins
Junior
Print Journalism

* I would work harder to keep tuition cost low.

Chris O'Neal
Freshman
Biology

"The rules in the dorm with regards to security include a lot of unnecessary procedures that don't help anything"
Celeste Jones
Sophomore
Acting

"Improve the books in the library, they are really old and out of date."

Tiffany Polk
Sophomore
Psychology

"I would re-examine housing conditions and housing assignments."

Danielle Withers
Sophomore
Music Education

"I would definitely have more events involving all students rather than certain schools... to bring us all together."

Kelly K. Watson
Sophomore
Math

"I would make sure freshman get info about HUSA early on so that they could decide early if they wanted to get involved."

Jason Maddox
Graduate Student
Philosophy

"I would encourage more interdepartmental communication and encourage undergraduates to participate in meaningful research."
ARE YOU VOTING?