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The Hilltop 4-21-2006 Magazine

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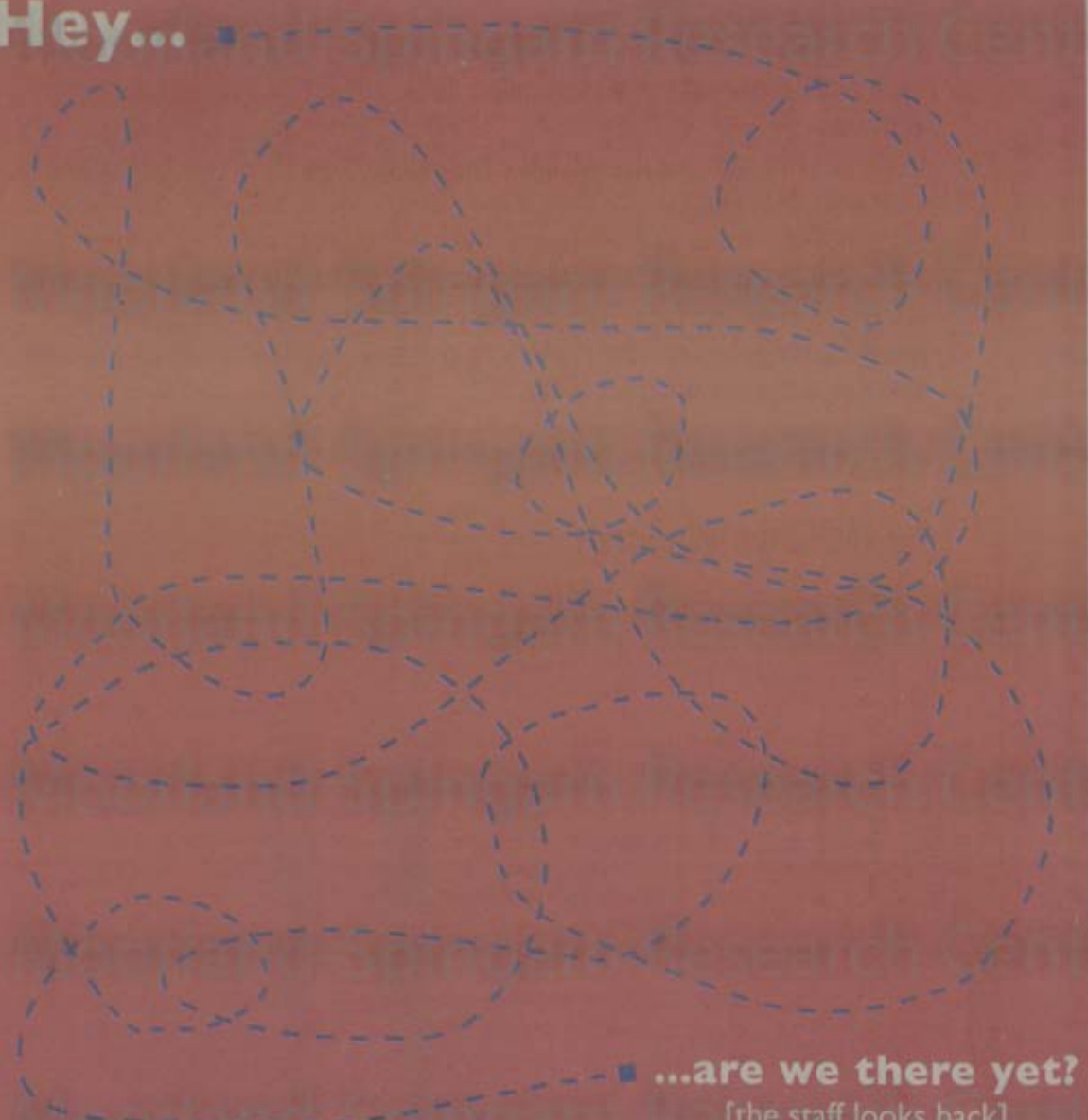
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The Hilltop

MAGAZINE

April 21, 2006

Hey... ■



■ ...are we there yet?

[the staff looks back]

The end is here!!!!!!!!!!

The Hilltop has closed another volume in its rich history. We have fought hard to quiet the critics who wonder: Why go daily? As we simply reply, Why not?

In our first year as a daily, we have enjoyed getting the news to you as soon as it happens.

We look forward to getting bigger and better, as we only can improve.

We would like to thank all supporters of The Hilltop, as well as the haters who keep us on our toes. This year has been a journey for us all and we would like to take this opportunity to share our lasting words and to once again give thanks where it is due.

Have a Safe and Happy Summer!

The 2005-2006 Hilltop Staff

Ruth L. Tisdale Hilltop EIC: '04- '06

The Hilltop: Forever My One True Love



It's over. As I sit in the office for the final night of production, it has truly hit me that four years of driving and giving up time and sleep is finally over. But as I begin to rejoice, tears start to form in my eyes as I come to the realization that it is truly over. No more late night runs to McDonald's, no more stimulating conversations about life at 2:00am, no more joking and laughing in the wee hours of the morning. My *Hilltop* career has finally ended. From my days as a freshman coming in as a green writer who didn't want to do anything but make friends, to the woman I have become now, *The Hilltop* has played such a vital role in making me the person I am today. I have gained so much knowledge from talented journalists from across the country and from journalists who came from within our ranks. I have traveled all across spending the gospel of *The Hilltop* as well as across seas inspiring myself as a journalist. But it couldn't be possible without the dedication of so many people, and if you will bear with me, I must give credit to just a few individuals.

My Family

It begins and ends with my family. Through ups and downs, successes and failures, my family always has my back and I will always love you Moon-My best friend. I love you with all my heart and I thank you for your prayers in my weakest moments.

Pam- I could always count on a laugh when tears were all I had.

Josh- You can't beat me.

Daddy- Thank you for loving me, despite whatever decision I have made.

Grandma- I miss you so much. Even though the Lord called you home almost four years ago, I still feel your presence. Thank you for watching over me.

Aunt Carmen- I know you are singing with the angels in heaven. Thank you for believing in me.

My Church

A song sometimes can be the source of strength. To all of my church family at wonderful Emory United Methodist Church thank you for the hugs, kisses and encouragement.

Carlotta- Thank you for seeing something in me that I didn't see in myself.

Pastor Daniels- Those messages every Sunday keep me encouraged.

Pastor Freeman- You are a woman of God who is destined for great things.

Tara- You have become my spiritual family in crime. Thanks for praying for me when I couldn't pray for myself.

AKA Excellence

Everyday as I walked to class or even to my car, no matter if I was on the phone or it was raining, I knew that I could count on my beautiful line sisters to give me a word of encouragement.

Martina- My number, my best friend. Words can't express how much you have meant to me in just the short time we have known each other. An organization might have looked as to gether as sisters, but God predestined from the foundation of the world that you and I would have an unbreakable bond.

Chaz- I can always count on your sweet spirit and encouragement.

Thank you for all of your hard work.

Amber- I could always count on you to know where I was coming from at all times. I don't know what I would have done without you this year.

Arionne- My beautiful back. Love the hair.

Administration

Al Zam- I could depend on you to pick up the phone and hear my complaints even though we always didn't see eye to eye. Thank you for the support.

Ms. Guillory- Thank you for making difficult situations humorous. You taught me how to be less stubborn... NOT!

Ms. Perry- Thanks for the candy!

Ms. Freeman- Your smile brightened many a sad day.

Matt- You came through this year as a mentor.

Stacy R.- You are so on point, but expect those lam calls.

Dr. Chambers- Thanks for the computer.

Professor Lamb- Thanks for listening when I complained and when I needed to vent.

Next Page...

From Page 3...



IF By Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being sick, still confess you are not fit,
If you can talk to a man and take the pain
Of his double-dealing that is just the wit.

If you can dream- and not make dreams your master;
If you can think and not make thoughts your slave;

If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoic and unflinching stare upon the ruin.

If you can count on old love and old friends
And still be true to them when they grow old,
And when they lie on their backs and smile
At what you say to them, you are truly old;
If you can love your best and worst and yours
And still be true to them when they grow old,
And when they lie on their backs and smile
At what you say to them, you are truly old.

If you can walk with others and lead them
And still be true to them when they grow old,
And when they lie on their backs and smile
At what you say to them, you are truly old;
If you can walk with others and lead them
And still be true to them when they grow old,
And when they lie on their backs and smile
At what you say to them, you are truly old.

Professor Dixon- When I become a professional newspaper editor, I can say that I used you as an example.

*** To all of my teachers, thanks for understanding my obligations with The Hilltop ***

Friends

Without you all, I would have no place to go when I wanted to pull my hair out. Thank you for being there to take my mind off of the paper for a while.

Shakima- My Road Dawg. In the short time that we have known each other you have kept me from going insane with your laughter and your way of knowing how lighten the mood.

11-1-8- Everyday I know I can depend on you for wisdom.

Rashida- I got your Chipotle...

Brooke- When is the next club outing?

Weldon- I think June is a good month...

Hilltop Staff 2004-2005

You all started it out with me. You all believed in a crazy vision that an HBCU could have a daily. Your friendship and shoulders to cry on in the times of my distress have kept me uplifted when I wanted to give in. Even though many of you are gone, all of you will forever be in my hearts.

Last but definitely not least...

Hilltop 2005-2006

On the first day of orientation last year, I told you all that it was up to you to sustain the daily, and you all have done a great job of doing so. Many of you were new, but all of you acted as veterans and professionals. We had our ups and downs, but as I look back and see the growth in many of you, I know that you all will make every past Hilltopper take notice of the extraordinary job that you will do next year.

Shani- You came in the 7th inning and carried us through to the championship.

Charreah- Even though it got tough you stuck with it. You are an invaluable piece to this puzzle.

Courtney- Z phi B got a wonderful woman, thanks for your dedication.

Christina- I see you got '07-'08 EIC on lock.

Shanae- I think you set the record for most front page stories. Awesome.

Morgan- You always make me laugh. I see you on the profiles.

Akeyla- I see your love for the paper.

Farren- You came in 2nd semester and did a great job.

Stacy- You were consistent from the beginning and always striving for excellence. Zora would be proud.

Vanessa- "Machine of Investigation." I better see it next year.

Rushondra- Give me a shout out when you make it onto CNN.

Josh T- You picked up the ball and ran with it. I expect big things out of you next year as DME.

Shaleem- Great job in N&W. Always on point.

Danielle H- Whenever we needed a story you were there.

Kendra- Silent Assassin. You always had a smile.

Erica W- You've been there since the beginning. Where's my Red Lobster's?

Alysa- Even though we didn't see you, you were always there with online version.

Caryn- You are going to be a great sports writer one day. But you know that Detroit will lose.

Drew- You are taking over my prized section in Campus. Light a fire...

Derrel- The next Maya in the making... I love your dedication in this paper.

Sean- You stepped up when we needed you.

Joi- I know that you will succeed in whatever you do.

Tom- Can I coon with you?

Chris W- I will miss your laughter and joking with you probably the most.

Maiya- Big Momma, always keeping us in line.

Willette- Wilma. You always had a smile no matter what happened.

Yasmine- I better have my fashion show tickets next year.

Angela- Ok so you didn't kill the fish.

Alexia- I am glad you stuck with it.

Nicole R- Amazing shots.

Marlene- Protests are in your future. Can I call you when I make it big time?

Jana- We may have had our differences, but I respect your love for The Hilltop. You were an excellent ME and I know you will do great next year.

Laura- When the Hilltop makes a million, make sure to send my 10%.

Ashley- Business Manager '07-'08?

Arion- Through it all we have been able to laugh it off.

Maya- My dawg. I will probably miss you most of anyone. You always kept it real with me.

Ayesha- The best for last... You have the brightest future in front of you. Next year is going to be hard, but hold fast... you're going to make it.





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ESSENCE

of a Hilltopper



Hilltop Loving.

Okay somehow. Some way. I made it through. It was no easy feat being the only managing editor to make it from August to May playing 'momma' to the beast we call The Hilltopper, in its first full year as a daily.

I thank all those who helped make this experience one that I will never forget (although I try...). I know I'm not the easiest person to work with. I thank all those who had the wisdom to never take my words too personal.

Before I even walked on this campus, I had secured a spot as a staff writer and have never looked back. I have interviewed the late great Ossie Davis, presidential candidates, Kimora Lee Simmons, director Chris Robinson, searched the halls of Howard Hospital looking for a shot up Cam'ron and that was only the beginning.

I must admit as a managing editor I have missed seeing my byline in the paper and hope to change that next year. I thank all those who have al-

lowed my Hilltopper career to flourish and even to those who have said to me, "Why didn't you go out for EIC?" I look forward to catching up on the parties, late nights, and free time I have given up this year and expect great things from the future of the Hilltopper. This paper has paved the way for so many opportunities for me (including my ASME internship this summer at Essence Magazine) and I am forever thankful!

Charneah K. Jackson

Special Thanks to...

Ruth: Thanks for having faith in me to do this job... though you made it seem like a lot less work when I signed up!

Shantel O: You are the Hans to my Burger and the Kool to my Aid. You will truly be missed!!

Maya: You are the only person who I will let call me a "pretty black girl." I guess cuz you one too. You are the American dream.

Sean: Yo... Like I was saying... Let's get back on our comedy!

Mel-Rock: It wasn't the same w/o you! Philly is in for a treat.

Christina and Ayesha: I am so excited to see you ladies shine!

Professor Lamb: Thanks for all the pep talks, letters and helping me see it was time to move on.

Yasmine, Michael, Nakisha, Maya and all my Cover to

Cover buddies: See you guys at the top! The magazine industry is not ready.

To all The brave who have managed to put up with me, I thank you. Especially...

Justin & Celeste: You followed me to Howard!! Can you

believe we have been friends for over a decade? Thanks for allowing me to be myself and for watching this caterpillar turn into a butterfly.

The Roomies: Congrats on everything Jan, even though I never see you! Anya A., thanks for all the meals and all the laughs. In that small body lives such a huge heart. No weapon formed against you shall prosper!

*I'm out of town, but to all those who have touched my heart, you are not forgotten!



Shani O. Hilton

I've worked at The Hilltop for four years. That's a long time. In writing this, I've realized that the vast majority of people who I know well, who I spend time with, who make me laugh, who are my friends are Hilltopers. I don't know how I feel about that.

Kidding! My Howard experience has been pretty awesome, but it's time to leave high school behind... again.

I want to thank each and every person I've met here for contributing in some way, small or large, to my Howard experience; from the people who have challenged me (and my sanity) to the people who have made my life easier.

But I have a few (ok, a lot) special shout-outs to people who have made an extra impact on me.

Hilltop:

Ayesha, put some bass in your voice, sweetie (and be nice to John for me... poor guy). Christina, I'm really glad you stopped giving me a hard time because I was "just the paginator" ... just try and remember that not everyone can appreciate your particular brand of humor (and that some people are kinda sensitive). Ambular, (I know, I know, let's just think of it as a charming misnomer) I'm so glad I met you — you are one of the nicest people I know, and seeing you always brings a smile to my face; Ciara, "Prep" was the best. "The Da Vinci Code" tucked, the Just Us Book Club is the most wonderful club there ever was — and there's too much randomness between us for me to express it all, but I have to throw a wet blanket on the fact that I won't see you every day anymore; Stace, from the DC to the H Psi ... you turn out an excellent section, and make my life easy — therefore you are automatically one of my favorite people; Vanessa, you make my life hard — but you're still one of my favorite people; Rushondra, you bit my style (even though your purse is black), but you're cool with me; Erica, you're ghost; but hey, you're doing your thing, and I admire that about you; Josh, you made Comm Law fun, and even though you seem to enjoy harassing me, I still think you're just swell; Drewbie, when's the graduation party, again? But really, you're, like, the freakin' coolest guy I know; Caryn, thanks for making the last half of the semester easy for me; Derrell, I'm not as much of a jerk as you think I am; Mays G., quit boo-luv'n and bring yo' behind down to the office; Mays, I'm just impressed that you held on for as long as you did, girl; Courtney, I'm proud of you, and I'm glad you got what you wanted — although I'm sad that we never got to practice The Hilltop party walk (shake that paper!).



Willette, Angela and Alexia, you girls are great, thanks for sticking around, even when I put the wrong last name at the front desk, or called you "girl" (Toni, I wouldn't have survived Fease w/o you... and I really am happy for you, Chris, smoooooooooooooooooooooh! Sean, "where did the good go?" (It's a song, of course). Jana, I bequeath to you the same advice I did to Christina — you're talented, and as long as you respect your staff, you'll do beautifully; Charreah, what can be said about a love as true and pure as ours? You're ... wonderful, and having you by my side was all I could ask for and more; Laura, you need to stay away from Adams Morgan; Ashley, I promise, you're so much more than "white girl" to me now; Alesha, good job on holding down the ad pages; and Ruth, everything random happens to you ... you're one of those people who makes life interesting.

Non-Hilltop:

The Old-School Crew

Shandeezy/Greez/Shaudie/Shawn, you are my hero, and I'm constantly thinking of ways that I can be more like you. You're going to be spectacular in med school, although if you're not in the vicinity, I'm going to be pissed; Charisse, I like where we are, and I think we've both grown up a bit; Stephens, I don't see you too much, but you still are the cutest midget I ever did see; Eni/Ron/BFF, thanks for bringing me into your life, although I don't think it was a fair trade, considering your indentured servitude to The Hilltop (sorry about that!); but hey, Pratt! Wilfey, we didn't see nearly enough of each other this year, but when we spend time to-

gether, it made me fall in love with you all over again. We're good together, and I'm proud of us as we send our baby, Overheard At The Mecca, toddling off into the world. Also! The Sin Tingles, the newest music sensation to hit Japan!

Non-Hilltop:

Random Shout-Outs

Matt, I'm glad you're pleased with the results of your leadership development (I don't know if I said it, but thank you for everything). And if you don't wanna bake cookies, you could always make some Banana Pancakes; Lenz! Hey, my not-Ethiopian bar-buddy ... did you have fun at the Share last night; Michael Lawson, is it bad that I miss being at BR? Also, you officially lost all your cool points after the Honky-Tonk Badonkadonk; Tangi, Dommo, Sheanna, Dora, Teila ... I'm glad that Arion's "other set of friends" are so cool, and that I got to meet you ladies; Morgan, you must be really lucky at cards; Lex & Chev, in case I didn't say it, "awwww"; GG, I still haven't seen your offspring; Steve-Q, you can do better; hi, Davy; Jeremiah, I saw you yesterday and you were strip; Quail, take your behind to the mall, Ronald, can't wait to name-drop the "Jamar" ... Olu, thanks for the couch, the sushi, and for looking out, no thanks for the Fantastic Four and Ultraviolet, and ... sorry I got fired; Dre, I guess we can't call you Stitch anymore; James, my high school homie ... sorry we didn't get to hang out, but I promise we will; Everyone else, sorry if I didn't get to you, but I'm tired now.

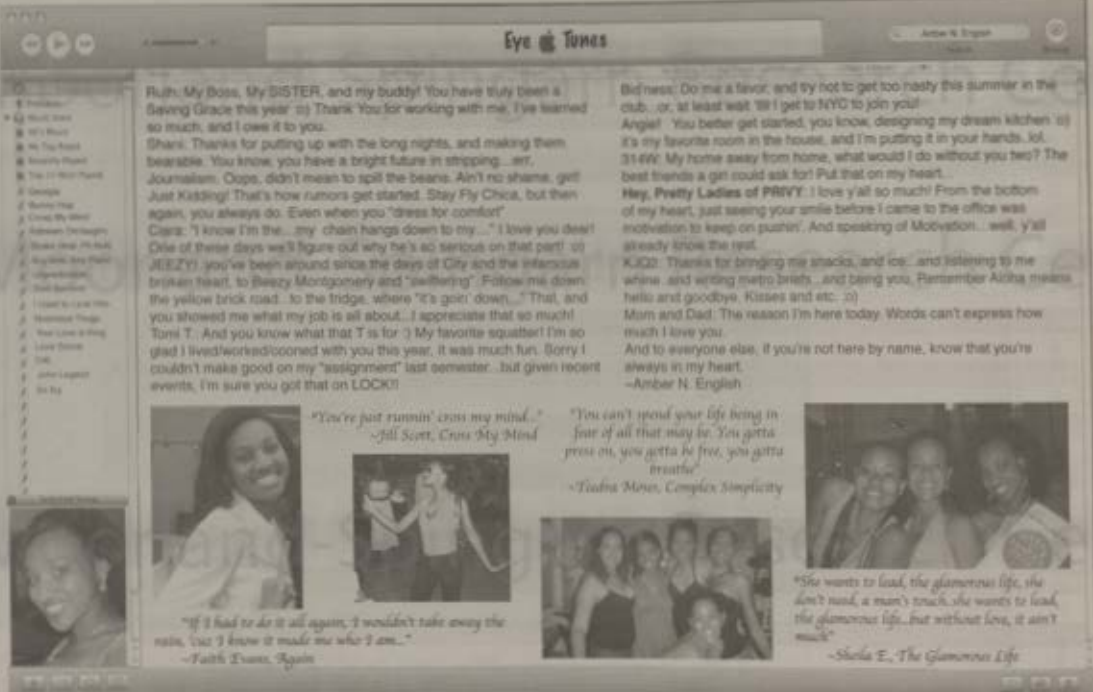
See you at the ten year reunion!

"An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you do know and what you don't."

—Anatole France

"Nostalgia isn't what it used to be."

—Peter De Vries



Stacy Anderson,
Biz & Tech Editor



¹ The 'active' leaders from Saint Marcellus, I mean
to God. Ed. Scriver.

Shantia, my sister, I wish I could run to your room in Meridian like I use to. The time and space with you changed how much you relied on me. I wish that you have found a love that makes you feel safe, happy and well, and my love is there.

this year, I see you, baby! And I'm still looking for some "yes one!" Let's promise to do a big in the "A" one good time this summer.

Suzanne Jones Todd, I want to be as helpful as you can. Thank you for listening to me and putting up with all my random visits and requests. I hope you and Bridge know that you can ask anything of me.

about it, how very much

To Dean Dixon, my "father" Dr. Saggiw, and Ms. Dimesh, thank you for always coming through for me. Appreciate you all for truly standing behind the students at the wonderful JHJ School of Cosmetology.

5 Days... A Week. SUBSET OUT!

The Unruly 6

We, the members of The Unruly 6,

would like to say . . . It's been a long year. From lynchings to libation, from one night extravaganzas to one weekend extravaganza, from McDonald's



**DON'T FEED HER
AFTER MIDNIGHT!**



runs to running from the mafia, from lists of anticipation to, well... not anticipation, anymore. - The Littlest Nigg

Arion Jamerson

As my senior year is coming to an end, I can't help but think of all the great memories. Freshman year seems like yesterday, when I moved into The Quad, Baldwin 2nd floor. Of course when it was turn to use the elevator, it **BROKE!** I remember being sick when I first came and missing all the Campus Pal events I paid for (is it too late for a refund). The rest of the year made up for it, there is no year like freshman year! Also that is when I got hired to work at The Hilltop. After three and half years, I can't believe I'm still here!

I do have to say working at The Hilltop has opened so many doors for me. The Hilltop is the reason why I received an internship at People magazine and work part-time at USA Today. Moving up the ranks from paginator to managing editor to business manager. From these positions, I have learned what it takes to be **TRULY DEDICATED**. As I move on with my life, I will never forget where it all started: **HOWARD**.

Oh how I **LOVE HOWARD**, but I'm glad my black experience is coming to an end. Howard has taught me so much, always make a copy of anything you turn in, networking is a must and that **THERE IS A PROCESS FOR EVERYTHING**. The competitiveness is what the real world is about. As I go to Pratt Institute (#9 school for design) in the Fall, I will not let the "others" outdo me. I have learned that we are just as good as anyone else, if not better. We must stand tall and proud! Oh I will miss you **HOWARD!**

I thank **GOD** everyday for the blessing he had brought me and continues to bring. My life is just starting and I have so much to accomplish. Even when things don't go right or the way I have planned, I know **HE** has a reason. **HE** is the reason no one can throw salt on my game or bring me down. I am destined to be a **PHENOMENAL WOMAN**, which **CAN'T BE STOPPED!**



Shoutouts (Oh how I missed these)

I will truly miss my Hilltop family, NCNW family, Circle K family, B2 family, and the Office of Student Activities. To my girls **Tangle, Dom, Ledora, Nana, Teila and Khalea** we will be friends forever. We have stuck it out since freshman year. To **Shaunda**, my best friend, next year will be the first time we have been apart in 9 years, what will I do without you? Good thing we have Verizon, then mobile to mobile minutes! **Shani Bean**, that's for bringing me to the plantation, I mean The Hilltop. We have grown together so much, we are like the same person. **Charisse**, I will miss those good morning breakfasts. **Stephanie**, my sweet Stephens, what will I do without you too? **Michele**, my little bit, we are destined to be **DYNAMIC**, we will see who gets there first! **Matthew L.**, thanks for being a great brother. You listen, even when I know you could care less. You are a wonderful and giving advisor. Drinks are on you for homecoming! **Laura A.**, my protégé, I can't help but be so proud of you, I'm there for you until the end. **Ashley M.**, you're next! **Aleasha B.**, you have learned so much this year, I am proud of you. **Jouanna & Lindsey** - Thanks for all the hard work! **Maya**, we are but to blow up, they know what time it is. Oh can't forget you **Asa**. Thanks you for always having my back, no matter what it is!



Erica Renee Williams



One of my favorite quotes is "Success is not a destination, but instead a journey". While my journey at The Hilltop has come to an end, the experiences I have received over the past four years have now allowed me to travel other places and embark upon new journeys. I have been blessed to work with such dedicated and talented individuals who have encouraged me to do my job even when I had a million other things to do (after all the paper still has to run inspite of tests, parties, and other BS we go through as students).

From the outside looking in, the Hilltop is just a daily student publication. However, to me it means so much more. While working with the Hilltop for so long, I have experienced almost every

emotion imaginable; ambition, hard-work, determination, anger, sadness, happiness, nervousness, but most of all satisfaction. This satisfaction comes from knowing that I am a part of a legacy that began years before me and will more than likely continue years after I am gone.

Now as I close the "Howard University" chapter of my life, I take with me many memories and experiences that have made me the person I am today. These memories and experiences include introductions and relationships with many positive people. I would call out specific names, but the list would be too long; so for all the professors, advisors, students, entrepreneurs, etc. who have inspired me or simply made my day brighter while a student

here at Howard, thank you! To all of my friends, those who left my life and came back again and for those who never left, I love you guys! To my family for your support and of course, financial backing, words could never express my gratitude, I love you all dearly!

To my Hilltop family, even though I am MIA a lot, I still appreciate each and every one of you and will miss you all. For those who are graduating, I know you will go on to do BIG things in life. For those Hilltoppers we are leaving behind, I know you guys will work even harder next year (Ayesha will definitely make sure of that!).

Peace & Blessings,
Erica R. Williams

S. Ciara Famble

Whoa! It has been a whirlwind year for me at the Hilltop. It's so weird to have a little half-page in the magazine because every year before this one I have looked at it and wondered who these mysterious faces were that covered the trends and events on campus and around D.C. I remember when I came in as a freshman, and I went right to the Hilltop office for a story. Jennifer L. Williams was Life and Style editor then, and we had a nice talk about what she wanted from her section that year. I'm embarrassed to say it, but I never came back after that. I just got caught up in freshman year, and I wasn't sure journalism was what I wanted to do. Then I went through my sophomore

year and wrote nearly every week for the paper as a contributing writer. When staff interviews came up, I was so sick I almost didn't go, but somehow I made it through and I got hired as a copy editor; I didn't want to do that initially, but pretty soon I was enjoying it. Then Jana moved up and I moved to Life and Style...my new home. I have to be honest...I loved having my section this spring. There's so much to do and anyone who knows me knows I always have something to say, so in my section and at the Hilltop in general, I felt I had found a home. And I have. So before I leave my home for the summer, I have a few things to say to the Hilltop staff. Shant, I will miss our talks so much. How can there be the "Just Us" Book Club when there's just me? That's a wet blanket on my Hilltop years. Ambaaaa: it was great watching you pull Metro out of the air nearly everyday. That is what great reporters are made of! Tomi and Courtney: K.C. Jap! OOOHHHHHHHHHAAAHHHH. And on a serious note, congratulations to you both. All your hard work didn't go unnoticed, and you guys are living the fruits of your labor right now. Live it up, Maya. I've never seen a more talented photog. You are

headed for the big time, which is cool, cause you're so real, and I love you for that. V-Meezy: can't wait for next year. I'll have ridiculous stories about the summer and you'll know what it's like to be in a real city (Ida A)! And we can launch a machine of investigation into that! Ruthie: Hey hon! You have been great this year. You pulled it out whenever it was necessary, and you know what I mean. I love you. You are for real. Twin: How's math? I guess I'll never know. Anyway, you always had the tightest L&S today. It's great to see at least some things from a guy's perspective. Charerah: My fellow A-towner, you and I need to run that work shop! Arrrone: You are the coolest! I don't think I'll ever be as cool as you. Just between us, that's why I hang out with Shani. She's a dork, too.



Sean: You were always there when I needed a random assignment. Sorry, I should have read the syllabus more. And Jana: Welcome back homie! Mama Maya. Thanks for the jams...Hov! And Angela: You're new, but I like you. You banged it out with the edits. You're awesome, and one day soon, I promise we can go to Sephora. And to everyone that I forgot to mention: you know I love you! I love you all to death because you helped do what everyone said we couldn't do: run a good daily publication. You guys are fantastic.

S.Dot...out.



Christina M. Wright

CAMPUS
EDITOR

"Don't hate me cuz I'm beautiful."

~ Prince



Sigh

O, another year at *The Hilltop*. It's been tough a road, but we made it. I was going to use this space to tell about my year in review, but I have decided it should be used to tell people a little bit about what is *The Hilltop*.

While there are many who speculate, there are few who know. I am one of those few. *The Hilltop* is a vortex: You get sucked in, and there is no way to pull yourself out. For those that aren't worthy of the vortex, they are spit out like yesterday's news.

We work hard at this publication. It may not turn out perfect, but we do work everyday to get it right. Use our own toothbrushes. Take it to the next level. That's what we aim for. We may not make it 100% of the time, but that's what we aim for.

Hilltoppers work from morning until early morning. There are phone calls on top of phone calls, on top of emails, on top of glares, on top of spite, on top of lectures. Then there's the stuff that actually has to do with

producing the paper. Reporting. Writing. Editing. Designing.

All of that takes up at least 80% of our time. And that's not even counting the massive amount of other life trials. Never mind if you have an attention-seeking little sister, or a visiting big brother, or a needy Girl Scout, or a difficult "friend" vying for your attention. O, yeah, those things call "classes"... I guess we have to deal with those at some point.

There is no time for a breakdown. Naw, we can't do that at *The Hilltop*. You have to keep going. We're little pink Energizer bunnies running around with no heads. But somehow we're expected to keep our heads on our shoulders enough to deal with everyone's personal problems with our daily work.

I'm here to tell you that a true Hilltopper is cut from a different cloth than the rest of y'all. No offense, but we are. Imagine waking up at 8 a.m. to cover an event before going to your 10 a.m. class, writing the story in between your next two classes. At 1 p.m., you decide to finish the story and study for a test you have at 6 p.m. Somebody just got robbed in front of the Quad with bazooka. And off you go to attack that story. When you finish, you go take your test. Then you go to *The Hilltop* to lay-out those two stories you wrote, and hassle other people to finish their's. Could you do it? Would you quit?

I can't say I haven't wanted to. In fact, I know someone who officially did, but the vortex was not yet ready to let go. And, apparently, it is not ready to let me go, as some extraordinary force has me coming back for another year with this abusive lover. See y'all next year. I'm fightin' back.

SHOUT OUTS

MOMMY - YOU HAVE REALLY BEEN MY BEARD. THIS YEAR LORD KNOWS I HURT BAD AND DROPPED IN YOUR "ARM" OF MEET. YOU'VE BEEN THERE EVERY STEP TO MAKE SURE THAT I WASN'T ATTEMPTING TO BE "A THERE IS PLACE AT THE WEDDING" PIERA STALL.

CC + CRM - ONE MORE YEAR APART AND STILL CLOSER THAN EVER. AND AS Y'ALL WEIT, IT'S THE FOR THEM GROUP MEETS.

CATH - I KNOW WE DON'T GET TO TALK A LOT, BUT I DO THINK ABOUT YOU AND I AM ALWAYS A PERSON CALL ME.

SUNSHINE - WE JUST GOTTA MAKE IT. I LOVE YOU EVEN ON THE WORST DAYS. CUP, CLIMB, WHO? I DON'T GIVE A.

AYESHA - I'VE BEEN ONE TIME, BUT WE MADE IT. WE EVEN TALK A WHILE MARIJUANA IS THERE. BUT, IT'S MORE NEXT YEAR, OUR YEAR.

JANA - THE VORTEX TRIED TO GET YOU OUT, BUT IT'S SICKED YOU BACK.

COURTNEY & TOMI - THE VORTEX TRIED TO GET YOU, BUT Y'ALL HAD YOUR PRIORITIES JUST RIGHT. CONGRATULATIONS AND SEE Y'ALL NEXT YEAR.

AMBER - DONALD RICHIEB, J/K, I KNOW YOU GOT N&W ON LOCKDOWN.

CHADREAH -

VANESSA - WE PROMISE NOT TO DISOBEY THE VM.

VANESSA MIZELL

(deep breath) Kevin! This is all your fault! Just playin' New, but I could have never pictured this day! When I look back on the long, dusty road, I can't even see where I began. Working for The Hilltop is an experience that lends very few words for explanation and an abundance of opportunities to learn from mistakes. It takes a certain type of person to withstand the pressure of maintaining a daily publication but when your choices are to either sink or swim, you learn to just keep kicking. It reminds me of the way life works. Y'all know, well, anyway, sorry for the dearth of columns but I'm a woman of few words. As many of my closest friends know (clear throat). Well, I must say, I did have fun with the wonderful staff even though it got a little heated at times. It's all love!



MEMORIES

- * Talking with Clara in the office
- * Always asking either Drew or Courtney to lay out my page... now I can do it on my own! Yay for me!
- * Ruth's Nazi leadership
- * Calling Kevin a million and one times
- * Where's our machine of

Thank You's

GOD: for the daily explanation of how I got through this
 Husband: for being the best person to work with and making things so simple
 Mother: for being a great writer under pressure
 Danielle: for taking on this great responsibility but carrying with undeniable strength
 The Crew (Desha, JJ, and Shamirah): for understanding why I was so antisocial this year and for being such good friends since we were all freshmen
 Mom: for giving me life... everyday

- Investigation?
- * New Orleans
 - * THE NEWSPAPER CONFERENCE
 - * Maya's house... gettin' it on the dance floor... my roomies!
 - * What happened to employee of the month????
 - * Sean- my Hilltop husband
 - * Hey Derrel

Bettina, Brandon and Jaki: for putting the pressure to be great. Wasn't for doing the unbelievable
 The Whims Mizell Lewis family: for keeping me hanging in there
 The Douglas and Lewis Family: for keeping me inspired and motivated
 Grace and Jennifer: The International Trio: for keeping the best friendship
 Dr. John Davis: for always being there for NationsWorld
 Dad: spiritual advisor
 Contributing Writers: for keeping up NationsWorld
 The Bealer of Mary Tami (rappin the School of D): for showing me high America and the globe, for always giving us something crazy to write about
 The Good Folks in The V-Lobby: Mrs. Landis for being a wonderful professor and advisor
 My journalism professors: Jason who was there since the beginning
 Professor Darnon for being an inspirational
 Anyone I've ever had to annoy now that I say GOOD!

These could be your reflections ...

Applications for the 2006-2007 Hilltop Staff are due TODAY!

Hey Graduating SENIORS Before You Do This!



**Remember
the times,
like these
when...**



**Do you have any confessions, thank
yous, good-byes and recollections of
Howard University?**

**If so, YOU have the chance to express them through the
commemorative Hilltop Graduation Issue!!!
Share it with your friends**

Come by The Hilltop Business Office

Senior Will-100 words & picture for \$25

Rushondra Janee' James



WOW! Is it me or did this year FLY by?? Well, even if it is JUST ME, I would like to say that I have TRULY enjoyed serving The Hilltop Family this year as your Assistant Nation and World Editor. I know God really paved the way for me to make it through this school year. He is the source of my strengths. To my Nation and World Editor Vanessa, GIRL, GIRL, GIRL-LOL. Words cannot express how close we have grown through these last few months. We were new kids on this "H-Phi-Phi" block together and now we are veterans. I love you girl! To Kevin Harris- Kevin, I owe my Hilltop career to you! Thanks for encouraging me to apply and helping out in ANY way that you see fit. I'm going to miss you next year after you graduate. I cannot forget, my staff writers, Shaleem Thompson and Danyelle Hadaway, ladies you were truly a God send. Thanks for being patient with me through the MANY, MANY emails, news briefs and articles. You are both well on your way to becoming successful journalists. I couldn't have asked for anything better from you two: To Courtney Eland, Christina Wright and Chameah Jackson...thanks for LAYING out my PAGE!! Without you, there would have been no Wednesday Edition of Nation and World. Thanks for being patient with me.

To my NEW family, my HUSA family, Administration 46 is DESTINED only for graduates! I look forward to serving you as your 2006-2007 Press Secretary.

To the ladies of the National Council of Negro Women, Howard Section, it will be my PLEASURE to serve as your 2006-2007 President. Next year we WILL be Organization of the Year.

To all the BISON from SOUTH CAROLINA...Ain't NOTHING finer ☺

To those faithful Nation and World Wednesday readers, thanks for taking the time to get INFORMED. Without your readership, there would be no paper.

FINALLY, to my family, Mom, Dad & Richard, Without your financial support I wouldn't even have the opportunity to even attend

Howard, much less work for The Hilltop. To my friends: You are ALL MY ANGELS. You know who you are. I am not going to name any because I know I will forget someone. Just know, you have a SPECIAL place in my heart now and always.

I will never forget this opportunity I had to work for The Hilltop, H-Phi-Phi till the day I die!!!!





Laura Aderotoye

My Family-O

I have grown so much through the strong LOVE and FAITH that you all have installed in me. Mommy and Daddy you have shown me what hard work and endurance can bring forth if you are driven and if it's in your heart. With a strong will you have taught me that NO ONE or ANYTHING can break you DOWN. *Lil' story number One*, I can't express the bond we have. I wouldn't want to trade you for the world, well maybe for some candy, um... I guess I'm kidding! *Lil' boy and Lil' story Two*, you are the reason why I strive to exist, so that you can look up to me knowing that it is possible for you to do the same. Lastly, my Big boy I don't know what I would do without you. You have been that open ear when I just wanted to vent out my frustrations or celebrate. LOVE YA!!

Axion
You ARE a PHENOMENAL WOMAN. I have enjoyed the laughs that we have shared. I know that you will be a great and prosperous woman in the future. You are such a caring and giving person, I will always keep you in my heart. Have fun with the White and Asian people at Pratt!!!

My BESTS, *ShaVonne and Charonne*, I have known you all since like we were babies, sophomores in High School. The friendship that we have is like one of the realists ever. I know that I never have to hold my tongue or act a certain way around you all. You allow me to be ME! Last year's motto was Meet and Greet this year I declare that we shall call it STOP, SHOP, and SAVE!!

Shana, Candice, Sheila, Jen Huck, Ashley, Leah, Ebony, Vainessa, Jen, Hinoma and Lily, Makena, Kableis, Megan and Natalie

From my freshman through my junior years, my Howard University experience would have not been complete with you all. The many friendships has helped me build my character in so many ways. We have done and been through SO MUCH!

What can I say... the most memorable times are:
Harmonizing the song *rock on* in Blaise class keeping me laughing!
The 7-Eleven outings, Pizzas in my belly, and Chop-a-bagging with the buds over the summer- Jen, Makena, and Kableis

The long journey to New York during the week of school to see John Mayer in concert and the numerous trips to Barbours and Poets with Jen! The John Legend and Common concert wit the Buds! With every illness you offering to make her tea!
Watching LAGUNA BEACH like it's crack with friends!
Happy Birthday (with Shana) because second!

Dressing up in Prom dresses for no apparent reason but because WE CAN.



Ayesha Renee Rascoe

CampusEditor('05-'06)
Editor-in-Chief('06-'07)



Wow. Another year at The Hilltop is complete, and now I am in a position I never really expected to be in: editor in chief of The Hilltop for the 2006-2007 school year.

Sure when I came to Howard nearly three years ago, fresh off a stint as editor in chief of my high school newspaper, The Spear and Shield, I briefly daydreamed about ascending the ranks and taking the reigns of this campus' premiere publication.

After getting hired as a staff writer my sophomore year, however, I began to have doubts about pretty much everything. I remember sitting at a shuttle stop near the beginning of my time at The Hilltop thinking I would never make it as a journalist and I definitely wouldn't make it at the newspaper.

It was just too hard and I was not built for that type of pressure. I said to myself, I'm going to finish out this year because I made an obligation but I'm not coming back.

I stuck around and things got better, a lot better. Working at The Hilltop pushed me and taught me I was stronger than I thought I was, and now I could not imagine working anywhere else.

Last year, I used to defiantly declare that contrary to popular belief, The Hilltop was not my life.

This year, though, I came to terms with the harsh truth. The Hilltop is my life, but I'm ok with that. Despite the stress, chest pains, late nights, constant arguments and strife, and all the other hazards that make staffers question "is there peace at the bottom," there is something about working here that

brings me intense satisfaction.

I think it's the people, with their extremely unique personalities (I truly believe you have to be a little off to work at The Hilltop), and the rush of constantly putting out a product that I can look at and say, "I helped create that."

Most of all I think what drives me is being able to provide information tailored to the Howard audience. You may not read about that fashion show or that award some student just won or that crazy guy getting into the Towers in The Washington Post, but you will get all that and more from The Hilltop.

So as I enter my senior year with this enormous responsibility on my shoulders, I must admit I'm a little nervous. Not about how The Hilltop

will survive under my leadership, I know it will. The newspaper is much bigger than me, or any one person, for that matter. It existed long before I was even thought of and it will continue on long after I am gone. My sincere desire, however, is that I will be able to leave the newspaper better than I left it, because I believe it has made me better.

As I go through next year, I must caution everyone to remember I'm still learning and growing. If you see me and you think I'm slipping, as they say in church "don't talk about me, pray for me." But also come to me and let me know so I can try to improve.

Oh, one final thing...I quit. Just playing, though. See you next year.

Shout Outs:

To the graduating seniors: I'll miss all of y'all. Come back and visit.

To the returning staff: Hold your head. Next year is a new beginning. Come into it expecting to succeed, because I know we will. My Wonderful, Lovely Family: I love all of y'all. I miss you all. I'm sorry I don't get to call as much as I would like, but charge it to my heart and not my heart.

Dallas and Keisha: What can I say? You two amigos are truly nice or die. You have stuck with me through everything... (puddles, breakdowns, and ally), and for that I am eternally

grateful. I don't think I would have made it through this year without you. I know that both of you are destined for greatness, because not only are you both intelligent, you are wonderful people with big hearts.

Natilee: My one and only roommate. Thanks for sticking it out with me. You always leave me but that's ok, because next year it's on.

Caren: I didn't get to see you much this year, but you know you're still my girl.

Ze and Danielle: I miss both of y'all very. Hopefully we'll all be able to all reunite some time next year.

Stacy: Girl, what a friend I have

in you. You're my restaurant lovin', excellence demanding, Ms. Business. I know I pick at you and your aura, but you know it's all love.

Christina: At the end of the day, this year it's been me and you holding down campus as best we could. We are truly some type of dynamic duo, ying and yang. Next year it's going to be our year.

The rest of The Hilltop Staff: I would shout you all out individually but it's 4 in the morning (you know The Hilltop will do that to you) and I'm tired. If you want a shout out just come see me and I'll shout you in person.



BAR 1000

Armen - You did a great job with the business office this year. I'm so proud of you! I'm glad I had the chance to work with you and get to know you. You are definitely one of the hardest working people at IRI. I watched you apply

Joanne - Can you believe your freedom, your life is over? It goes by that fast. Enjoy yourself at H&J and live life to the fullest. I'm going to miss you, take care and let me know if you need anything.

Little, Le La (Dante) [1990]
May an Ayl Mewl, Margot

See the difference.
ARB

Derell Smith

I am no longer a Freshman

My life at Harvard has finally begun, if you believe in the option of the sophomores, juniors and seniors that my life is so far away. In my friends, I found you for early mornings and late nights, for striking the light that I may have said and done, especially what you said, god forbid something happened to me today. To my professors I thank you for dealing with my special thanks to Professor Marcus and Dr. Hurrell for finally I like to thank everyone who supported me at the hilltop. Shanti, Maya, Tami, Courtney, Doreen, and anyone I have forgot. And one big shout out to my quit without you! What can I say my life is like nature everyone it is a break in BOSS!

Adrian

...son. Still, it is so my f- like to say. Thank you, Th by me through all the th I've said. I truly appreciate I have had true friends simply said. And a inspiring me to be great during my freshman year. Roth, Vanessa, Jane, C my dude Sean, I would a boardroom meeting

Sean Mosley



What I've Learned at the Hilltop (and who I have learned it from)

My name is Sean. I copy edit pages. That's the extent of my contribution. Nothing special.

I have, however, learned some important lessons from some important people here at the Hilltop.

Antony: How to keep your head up when all the signs seem to be pointing down. Rashonda and Vanessa: How to be vocal, make toasty mistakes, and finish the season like veterans.

Courtney: How to layout a section everyday...on time...be thorough...and still hang in there.

Stacy: How to have your stuff in on time...your facts straight...and still remain "fly" in the process.

Caryn and Drew: How to keep "Sports" sports despite countless suggestions for touchdown traps.

Jash: How to interview a hip-hop legend and still maintain your composure.

Curra: The word "culture" and its many different possible meanings.

Erica: How to help

somebody without hurting somebody in the process (Sorry 'bout the Powerpoint).

Derrell: How to tolerate having while getting the job done relentlessly.

Arian: How to make sure a breathy 'pockets' is right for the 05-06 year.

Maiya: How to still have the fortitude to conduct meetings when often few have the courtesy to show. Mayra: How to get the job done in the most efficient manner, even when not present.

Jana: How to always be happy and appreciative for working with the paper even when others aren't.

Ayesha and Christine: How to make the copy chief feel good about the job he is doing and how to make him feel bad about not reporting breaking news fast enough.

Kevin: For being able to stand between strangers and maintaining a level head.

Copy Editing Staff: How to come in every night, stay up all the crack of dawn, and still speak to me afterwards.

Shani: How to have more talent in one finger than most people have in their

whole body, have a million things going on, and still have the generosity and care to give your time to make the paper the best it could be.

Charish: How to come in every single day, never call out, never complain, and effectively manage a staff and produce a paper, even without electrical power.

As well as how NOT to micromanage a manager.

Ruth: How to throw a buncha knuckle heads in an office, give them the challenge of producing a paper everyday, and having the trust in them to do it and the patience with them to allow them to make mistakes and how to hire a young, hungry English major who never took a journalism class day in his life and giving him the opportunity to display some of the talent he always knew he had but rarely ever had the opportunity to show.

Read a book, Sean Mosley



THE COPY EDITORS

We are the unsung heroes. Most people know the writers, the photographers, the editors, and even the people who advertise in the Hilltop. However, when things go wrong, who gets all the blame? The Copy Desk. The life of a Copy Editor can be stressful, as it is a large responsibility we are the last eyes on the paper for any mistakes... and yes, big mistakes still get past our defenses. We've had regime shifts and terrible papers, but the Hilltop must still run. Nonetheless, without the writers, editors, photographers, and patrons, we would have no paper to read. We thank you for reading the Hilltop, for noticing when stuff is wrong,

and for keeping us on our toes. It's a hard road to travel, when you have a test at 8 am, and you are still doing your job at 3 am... but the Hilltop will always be paramount.

Copy Desk

Copy Chief- Sean Mosley
Asst. Copy Chief- Angela Bacon
Copy Editors- Tomi Akinmusuru
Willette Elder
Alexia Hogan
Christopher A. Wall

Tomi: Ever since freshman year, I've been trapped in the Hilltop vortex, never to be let out... this year has taken just about as much as its given, and yet I'm still thankful for the opportunity to work here. Hopefully, next year will

bring a whole new Hilltop experience that I can add to the notches of memories on my Howard belt...

Angela: Working at the Hilltop is like box of chocolates it makes you fat... and you know you shouldn't go back...but you keep going... Coming in to the Hilltop was like being born into a broken home: I knew both of my parents loved me...but they didn't love each other... and I think they just stayed together so I wouldn't grow up messed up in the head... There's no place like home!!!

Willette: I have learned... sometimes we make decisions between the things we want to do, the things we have

to do, and the things we've given our word that we will do. As copy editors, we have found strength in this lesson, and we are united in a common "word," a common flare for writing headlines and captions, and a common understanding of how things REALLY work. Can't wait for another year in the ring!

Alexia: It was really fun this year getting to meet new people. This was truly a very great experience for me... I love the Hilltop!

Chris: It's definitely been interesting. There's never a dull moment... well actually, there are quite a few... but Thank God graduation is just around the corner...

Staff Superlatives*



Quantity AND Quality

Shanae Harris

Columnist Extraordinaire

Clara Famble

The Hospitality Award

Ayesha Rascoe

The "You Got Served" Award

Vanessa Mizell

Most Fashionable & Fly

Yasmine Parrish

Most Likely to Cause Bodily Harm

Shani O. Hilton

The Miss Attitude Award

Charresh Jackson

The Hungriest Hilltopper

Amber English

The "Where is...?" Award

Ruth L. Tisdale

The Staff Smooth Operator

Sean Mosely

Best Smile

Nicole Reed

Best Eyes

(all finalists disqualified for having contacts)

The "Highest" Achiever Award

Maya Gilliam, Drew Costley, Joi Gilliam

The Tip Driller Award

Drew Costley

"Cause the shoes and shirt gotta coordinate" Award

Josh 'Silq' Thomas

The Big Mouth Award

Christina Wright

The Rico Suave "he gives massages" Award

Derrell Smith

The Coon of the Year Award

Toni Akimusu

The "Most Quotable" Award

Sean Mosely for "I WAS Hip-Hop"

She Who Laughs Loudest Award

Laura Aderotoye

The Sexy Shoulders Award

Arion Jamerson

Most Humorous (by fart)

Maya "N.B." Gilliam



*In loving memory of our beloved fish and mascot, Zora, and the H Psi Phi tree. Please take a moment of silence.