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 lastiing 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 slaving and giving up five hours of 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 really over. No more late night calls to McDonald's, no more stimulating conversations about life at 2:00 a.m., 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 who 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 spreading the gospel of The Hilltop as well as across new interviewing myself as a journalist. And 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.

Moni - 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 I was down.

Josh - You can't beat me.

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

Gracie - I love 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 Family 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 hand 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 if I was crying, I knew that I would count on my beautiful sisters to give me a word of encouragement.

Martina - My mother, 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 brought us together as sisters, but God predestined from the foundation of the world that you and I would have an unbreakable bond.

Claire - 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.

Arielle - My beautiful buck. Love the fur.

Administration
At 2am, 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. Guilory - Thank you for making difficult situations happen less. You taught me how to be less stubborn...

NOT!

Ms. Perry - Thanks for the candy!

My Freeman - Your smile brightened many a sad day.

Matt - You came through this year so far.

Stacy R - You are so cuteѣ but expect those Fam calls.

Dr. Chambers - Thanks for the computers.

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

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 awhile.

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应dors to cry on the times of my distress have kept me uplifted whenever I wanted to give it. 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 rough 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.

Shanea- 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. Zeta would be proud.

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

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

Josh L- 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?

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

Carly- 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 Life. You're a fun.

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

Sean- You stepped up when we needed you.

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

Toni- Can I cook with you?

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

Maiya- Big Momma, always keeping in line.

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

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

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

Alexis- I am glad you stuck with it.

Nicole R- Amazing shoes.

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 100.

Ashley- Business Manager '07- '08?

Aron- 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.

Ayesh- 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.

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 doubts and theirs you doubt.
If you can wait and not beoultered by things going too rapidly to wait,
If you can find and make all the things you cannot find,
If you can stop searching for the four winds in the wrong place,
And be quiet when you ought to be noisy,
And be noisy when you ought to be quiet,
If you can keep your table set for twelve instead of eleven,
If you can live with thirty now and take fifty in your stride,
If you can eat the things you do not like and love the things you do not eat,
If you can hide your sin and have the strength to keep it hidden,
If you can write truly of what you do not know,
Or talk about what you cannot see,
If you can keep your head when all men fail you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
If you can make head or tail of any amount of instruction you hear,
If you can have the wisdom to talk without thinking about it,
If you can talk about what you think and think about what you talk about,
If you can keep your seat when all men fall down around you,
If you can rise with your hands above your head and say, 'This is my country,'
If you can write truly of what you do not know,
Or talk about what you cannot see,
If you can make head or tail of any amount of instruction you hear,
If you can make head or tail of any amount of instruction you hear,
of a Hilltopper

Hilltop Loving...
Okay somehow. Some way
I made it through. It was
no easy feet being the only
managing editor to make it
from August to May playing
’momma’ to the beast we call
The Hilltop, 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
tSimmons, director Chris
Robinson, searched the halls of Howard
Hospital looking for a shot up
Cam’ run and that was only
the beginning.
I must admit as a man-
aging 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 Hilltop 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
time I have given up this
year and expect great things
from the future of the Hilltop.

This paper has paved the way
for so many opportunities
for me (including my ASME
internship this summer at Es-
ence Magazine) and I am
forever thankful!

Charriyah 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.
Shani O: You are the Ham 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 man-
aged to put up with me, I thank
you. Especially . . .

Justin & Celeste: You fol-
lowed 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 nev-
er 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!

*In out of room, but to all those
who have touched my heart, you
are not forgotten!
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 Hilltoppers. 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:**
Ayeesha, 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 pagination"... just try and remember that not everyone can appreciate your particular brand of humor (and that some people are kinda sensitive). Ambaral, (I know, I know, let's just think of it as a charming misnomer) I'm so glad we 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" sucked, 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 the 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; Anuhotha, you hit my style (even though your purse is black), but you're cool with me; Erica, you're goss; 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; DREWIE, 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; Dierell, I'm not as much of a jerk as you think I am; Maya G., quit boo-lookin and bring yo' self down to the office; Malaya, I'm most 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". Tom, I wouldn't have survived Pease without you, and I really am happy for you; Chris, smoooooooonnnnnnnnnooch! Sean, "where did the good go?" (It's a song of course); Jana, I bequest you to the same advice I did to Christina — you're talented, and as long as you respect your staff, you'll do beautifully; Charrash, 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:**
**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, Teia... 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" GQ, I still haven't seen your offspring; Steve-O, you can do better; hi, Davy; Jeremiah, I saw you yesterday and you were strippin' Quik, 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
Ruth: My Boss, My SISTER, and my buddy! You have truly been a Saving Grace this year! Thank you for working with me, I’ve learned so much, and I owe it to you.

Shark: Thanks for putting up with the long nights, and making them bearable. You know, you have a bright future in shipping. . . err, Journalism. Oops, didn’t mean to spill the beans. Ain’t no shame, get it? Just Kidding! That’s how rumors get started. Stay Fly Chic, but then again, you always do. Even when you “dress for comfort.”

Cara: “I know I’m the... my chain hangs down to my... ” I love you dear. One of these days we’ll figure out why he’s so serious on that part! (JJZY) you’ve been around since the days of City and the infamous broken heart, to Beazy Montgomery and “swiftening.” Follow me down the yellow brick road... to the fridge, where “it’s gone down.” That, and you showed me what my job is all about... I appreciate that so much! Tony T. And you know what that “T” is for? My favorite squaw! I’m so glad I lived/worked/roomed with you this year, it was much fun. Sorry I couldn’t make good on my “assignment” last semester... but given recent events, I’m sure you got that on LOCK!

“You’re just runnin’ cross my mind...”
—Jill Scott, Cross My Mind

“You can’t spend your life in fear of all that may be. You gotta press on, you gotta be free, you gotta breathe.”
—Tia Scott, Complex Simplicity

“If I had to do it all again, I wouldn’t take away the pain, but I’d do it again...”
—Faith Evans, Again

She wants to lead, the glamorous life she don’t need a man’s touch she wants to lead the glamorous life but without love, it ain’t right.
—Sheila E., The Glamorous Life

Stacy Anderson, Biz & Tech Editor

Be the change that you want to see in the world. —Ghandi

First, and Formally my best friend of 15 Years. We have shared so much love and guided me. My MFM, your strength to overcome obstacles everyday is an inspiration to you. You are my blessing. In a few short words, I am so grateful that I have a friend like you. This past year, you’ve had my back, knew the NYT and I love you dearly. Although I’m hard-headed, I’m still learning to every lesson and I hope to be as compassionate as you are one day.

Shamina, my sister, I wish I could run to your rescue. If I were a Meridian like you I saw you. But time and space may eventually change. Thank you for being there. The love you’ve shown has been my strength. Jennifer, your unwavering love for me is amazing.

You are my angel, my friend. I love you so much. Thank you for being so caring and giving. You have always been there for me. Each time I need you, you’re there. You’re my heart and my soul. I love you so much.

This past year, I see you, baby! And I’m still looking for some more of you. Let’s promise to do it again in the “A” one good time this summer.

Thank you for being a friend to me. I want to be a friend to you. 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.

Jana, thank you for helping me become a positive in life. You lightened so many of my dark days and I thank you for always being there to love me in the dark. Thank you for being my light.

Hey Lizzie, you are so busy and I love you. Thank you for being there for me. You showed me that love never leaves. Be proud of all your hard work this year. I see you, baby! And I’m still looking for some more of you. I love you much.

To Dean Dixon, my “Father” Terri, sewing and Ms. Daniel, thank you for always coming through for me. I appreciate you and I’ll keep you on my mind. I love you.

To my friends and the students at the wonderful JH! School of Communications To my pride and joy, the JH! George Club community service committee and participants, you are “the change” and thank you for changing my life.
The Unruly 6

We, the members of The Unruly 6, would like to say... It's been a long year. From 'yatchings' to libation, from one night extravaganzas to our weekend extravaganzas, from McDonald.

DON'T FEED HER
AFTER MIDNIGHT!
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 time 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 page editor 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!
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 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, 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.

Shanti, 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. Ambaaar: It was great watching you pull Metro out of the air nearly everyday. That's what great writing people do! Tons and Courtney. K.C.J. and OOHHHHHHVEEEEEAHHHH. 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 photo. You are headed for the big time, which is cool, cause you're so real, and I love you for that. V-Meezy, I can't wait for next year. I'll have ridiculous stories about the summer and you'll know what it's like to live in a real city (da Ah!)

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. Always, you always had the right L&B's today. It's great to see at least some things from a guy's perspective.

Charrell: My fellow A-towners, you and I need to run this workshop!
Arrion: 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 out.

And Jana: Welcome back home! Mama Malys. Thanks for the jams... Hov! And Angelia: 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 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.

3. Out...out.
*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.

Weworkhardatthispublication. 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 100% of the time, but that's what we aim for.

Hilltopers 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 spites, 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 buzzards. 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.

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**Shout Outs**

**Mommy** - You have really been my rock this year. Lord knows I have had ups and downs in every aspect of my life. You've been there every step to make sure that I wasn't tempted to see "If there is peace at the bottom," Frank Yellin.

**CC + CRM** - Our group apart and still closer than ever. And, if y'all see it, it's the for their group shots.

**Cathi** - I know we don't get to talk a lot, but I do think about you. And I am always a phone call away.

**Sunshine** - We just gotta make it I hope you even on the worst days. Cuz' you're right. I don't have a.

**Ayesha** - It's been one year, but it seems like we can't have them. But, it's next year, our year.

**Jana** - The vortex tried to spit you out, but it's stuck by you back.

**Courtney & Tomi** - The vortex tried to spit you out, but you had your priorities just right. Congratulations and see you next year.

**Amber** - Donald Rimmer, J/K, I know you got N&W on lockdown.

**Chairrea**

**Vanessa** - We promise not to destroy the VM.
These could be your reflections...

Applications for the 2006-2007 Hilltop Staff are due TODAY!
Hey
Graduating
SENORS
Before You
Do This!

Remember
the times,
like these
when...

Do you have any confessions, thank
yours, 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
strength. 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-Psi-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 am going to
miss you next year after you graduate. I cannot forget, my
staff writers, Shalaiem 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, I have you two. To Courtney Elland, Christine Wright
and Chatman 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 greatness! 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 Organ-
ization 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. With-
out your readership, there would be no paper.
FINALLY, to my family, Mom, Dad & Richard, With-
out your financial support I wouldn't even have the opportu-
nity 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-Psi-Phi 'til the day I Die!!!!!
Laura Aderotoye

Mi Family

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' Bitty 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' bran and Lil' styx Tyme... you are the reasons why I strive to excel, so that you can look up to me knowing that it is possible for you to do the same. Lastly, my Big sis 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!!!

Arion
You ARE a
PHENOMINAL
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 know
you all since like we were
babies, sophomores in High
School. The friendship that
we have is like one of the
realist 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 SAVV!!

Shana, Candice, Sheila, Jes Hack, Ashley, Beas, Khony, Vanessa, Jan, Ihuoma and Lily, Makela, Kahlisa, Megan and Natalie:

From my freshman through my junior years, my Howard University experience would not have 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 with my knox song in the classroom keeping me laughing! The 7-Eleven outings, Pizza in my belly, and Chugging with the buds over the summer... Jes, Makela and Khony.

The long journey to New York during the week of to see John Mayer at concert and the numerous trips to Bones and Pesto with Jan! The John Legend and Common concert with the Buds! With every disease we offering to make her tea!

Watching LAGUNA BEACH like it's crack with friends!

Happy Birthday with Shana Jamaican accent!

Dressing up in Prom dresses for no apparent reason but because WE CAN.
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 you 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 amigas are truly nuts or die. You have stuck with me through everything, (paddles, breakdowns and all), 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.
Natlite: My one and only roommater. Thanks for sticking it out with me. You always leave me but that’s ok, because next year it’s on.
Careen: 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 you 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 lovins, excellence demanding, Ms. Business. I know I pick at you and your aera, 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.
Alesha R. Bradshaw

Where do I start? I can't believe my time at HU is coming to an end and I am about to graduate. I feel like only yesterday I was a freshman at Howard University. However, I am excited to be back in school. I have made many lifelong friends and will miss all the things I loved while at Howard. My mother, father, and sister are very proud of me and I hope you are too.

Lindsey

I am excited to see how much I have changed since my first year at Howard. You are truly a beautiful person on the inside and out. Don't ever let anyone bring you down. Always be happy and do what makes you the happiest. I love you and I know you will do great things in the future. I am extremely proud of you.

Ashley

I am excited to see how much I have changed since my first year at Howard. You are truly a beautiful person on the inside and out. Don't ever let anyone bring you down. Always be happy and do what makes you the happiest. I love you and I know you will do great things in the future. I am extremely proud of you.

Arian

You did a great job with everything you did. I am proud of you and I am happy for you. I am your biggest supporter and I will always be here for you.

I have been blessed with amazing friends and family. They have always been there for me and I am forever grateful.

I am no longer a Freshman

Adrian

My life at Howard has finally come to an end. I am ready to move on to the next chapter of my life. I am grateful for all the experiences I have had and I am excited for what the future holds.

I would like to thank everyone who supported me during my time at Howard. I want to thank my family, friends, and my professors. I am very grateful for all of them.

I am looking forward to the next chapter of my life.
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.

Rudolph and Karen- How to keep your head up when all the signs seem to be pointing down.

Rudolph: and Vannessa- How to be proactive, make rookie 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 staff in on time...your facts straight...and still remain “fly” in the process.

Caryn and Drew-How to keep “Sports” sports despite counter suggestions for break down rookies.

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

Chris- The word “context” and its many different possible meanings.

Erica-How to help somebody without hurting somebody in the process. (Sorry “beat the Powerpoint”)

Derek-How to tolerate having while getting the job done relentlessly.

Ariana- How to make sure a headline’s pockets are right for the 11:05 year.

Maya- How to still have the fortitude to conduct meetings when often few have the courtesy to show up.

Janae- How to get the job done in the most efficient manner, even when not present.

Juan- How to always be happy and appreciative for working with the paper even when others aren’t.

Ayasha 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-Fort being able to stand between editor and maintaining a level head.

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

Shane- 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 ease to give your time to make the paper the best it could be.

Christie- 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 handful of blank 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 in high school 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 it’s 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 flair 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
Ciara Famble
The Hospitality Award
Ayasha 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
Charreah Jackson
The Hungriest Hilltopper
Abirer 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
Derell Smith

The Coon of the Year Award
Tomi Akimmsuru

The “Most Quotable” Award
Sean Mosely for “I WAS Hip-Hop”
She Who Laughs Loudest Award
Laura Aderotye

The Sexy Shoulders Award
Ashon Jamerson

Most Humorous (by far!)
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.