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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 89, NO. 93

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

TUESDAY notebook

Swygert Delivers State of the University Address

BY MORGAN NEVILLES-MOORE
Hilltop Staff Writer

President H. Patrick Swygert delivered his State of the University address yesterday touching on diverse issues affecting Howard including the proposed National Capital Medical Center, Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, and the current probationary status of the School of Pharmacy.

He noted that for the first time in history, Howard University received more than 25,000 applications for the fall of 2006, deeming the university to still be the first choice of many young adults around the world.

In reference to the federal appropriation to Howard, President Swygert stated that "with much of congress and the government's attention devoted

on the war against terror, prescription drug plans, social security reform and most recently the gulf coast efforts, we have been fortunate to have our appropriation remain steady receiving approximately \$240 million from the federal government."

Undergraduate Trustee Asso Aidoo introduced Swygert and gave the purpose of the evening's address.

"I cannot fathom a more appropriate way to prepare for the celebration of Charter Day than to assemble as we are here today acknowledging the past, embracing the present and shaping the future of our unique and irreplaceable home, Howard University," she said.

"I really think that he covered a great deal of information and this is an event if kept going that the entire university can benefit from



President Swygert addressed the National Capitol Medical Center and accreditation worries last night.

in years to come. However by the presence of those in the audience it was clear

that one particular issue held a greater importance to the students," said Bryan

Andrews, a junior political science major.

Andrews was referring to the overwhelming turnout of the School of Pharmacy student body, many dressed in their respective lab coats making a bold statement to all those present.

"Pharmacy is a part of our history, a part of our culture and a part of what we feel is the definition of the overall university," Swygert said.

The School of Pharmacy, according to the standards of accreditation, was rated insufficient in six of the thirty-five standards, those standards include the college's bylaws which need to be reviewed by the board of trustees, new curriculum material, inadequate lecture hall space and budget. President Swygert made clear in his speech he wants to rectify these problems speedily.

"We hope to make clear to the accreditation council what we have done, what we are seeking to do, and what we will do to meet the standards as outlined by them," he said.

Immediately following his address President Swygert made himself available to answer questions from students who were still in need of answers, before continuing to be reception.

"I'm happy that he spoke on our issue because this is more than just a problem, this is a serious hindrance in our lives and careers. I am not completely free of worries but I am more at ease than I was before he spoke," said Kylan Scijak, a second year pharmacy major.

WEATHER
TUES, 2/28:
PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH: 48, LOW: 36

WED, 3/1:
MOSTLY CLOUDY
HIGH: 43, LOW: 42

THU, 3/2:
SHOWERS
HIGH: 65, LOW: 42

BREAKING NEWS
POLL SAYS NEW ORLEANS BLACKS OPTIMISTIC

BLACK NEW ORLEANS RESIDENTS HIT HARDEST BY HURRICANE KATRINA ARE MORE LIKELY TO EXPRESS OPTIMISM ABOUT THE CITY'S FUTURE REPORTED BY CNN.COM FROM A POLL RELEASED YESTERDAY

SPECIAL EDITION
HILLTOP CELEBRATES ONE YEAR AS DAILY

FLIP THROUGH TODAY'S PAPER TO REFLECT ON THE NATION'S ONLY DAILY HBCU NEWSPAPER. FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCES
PAGES 2, 4, 5, 10



VOTER EDUCATION
SAMPLE BALLOT TO HELP VOTERS

LOOK AT THE SAMPLE BALLOT TO PREPARE FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD THIS WEEK
PAGE 8



SPEAK OUT
COME OUT TONIGHT TO HEAR THE HUSA CANDIDATES

The Hilltop is hosting a Speakout for the HUSA Slate ON! and the write-in slate Catalyst! tonight at 7pm in the School of Business rm 218

HU CALENDAR
MAR 3
CHARTER DAY CONVOCATION

MAR 11-19
SPRING BREAK!

MAY 13
COMMENCEMENT



Hilltop Maintains Community Coverage as Daily Paper



Members of the community reflected on the Hilltop's coverage of the area, as the only black daily newspaper in the region.

BY AMBER ENGLISH
Metro Editor

Betty Lewis, a longtime resident of the Shaw neighborhood, remembers the inconvenience she experienced whenever she used the Shaw-Howard metro stop early last year.

"It was so frustrating trying to walk up and down the escalator, especially when I had something extra to carry. I just couldn't

understand why the escalators never worked."

The frustrations of Lewis, and others, came to an end after The Hilltop published an article, and with the help of Ward One council member Jim Graham, the escalators were quickly fixed.

For years, The Hilltop has been much more than a campus newspaper. The Hilltop has consistently

searched for the community stories that would be otherwise untold; particularly those of the nearby Shaw and U Street neighborhoods.

Now, as a daily newspaper, The Hilltop continues that legacy of community coverage with a special task, as the only African-American daily newspaper in the region.

"I'm glad to know that

The Hilltop is around, and that they care about our community," said Leonard Williams, another resident of Northwest D.C. "I check it out once in awhile for the stories about the city, and the campus. It's nice to know what's going on at Howard, too."

Community issues that The Hilltop has focused on throughout the years include crime, gentrification, and the quality of D.C. public schools.

Residents of the neighborhood who catch The Hilltop are particularly fond of the coverage of community crime.

But, local news in The Hilltop extends beyond the negative. From the early 90's through today, The Hilltop has featured exclusive interviews with community leaders in business, and government.

In November of 1994, The Hilltop published a candid interview with Marion Barry Jr., in which Barry discussed his troubles and political fall, and how he was working on his come-

back. Lavinna Harris, another local supporter of The Hilltop, caught the paper's most recent interview with Adrian Fenty, HU Alum and current candidate for D.C. mayor.

"I'm impressed [with The Hilltop], they talk to people I wouldn't expect a college student to interview, and tell the story you might not catch in the other papers, she said."

Just as the District is a center for government, the District is also a frequent locale for protests.

People come from all across the country for the chance to defend their passions on the steps of the capitol, and be it through pictures or articles, The Hilltop has been there to cover it.

In the fall of 1990, The Hilltop followed the planning, and later failure of a Ku Klux Klan rally through the streets of D.C. Klan members were stopped by police after the demonstration had started, much to the dismay of area

residents. This history continued in October of 1994 with the Million Man March, and then just this fall with the special coverage of the Millions More Movement. The Hilltop's special section dedicated to the Millions More Movement won an award at this year's HBCU Newspaper Conference.

But perhaps what makes local Hilltop readers so proud of the paper is simply knowing that those producing the paper are part of the future of black journalism.

"It's good to know that, there's a lot of talent going into the press in the near future," said Gregory Morris. "I read a lot of black newspapers, and those papers will only continue with young writers like [The Hilltop staff]."

"That alone, makes me proud of what you guys have done, and what you will do, for this community."

Pharmacy Students Still Unhappy After Response

BY KEVIN HARRIS AND LAUREN STEPHENS
Hilltop Staff

University President H. Patrick Swygert defended his administration's handling of the recent accreditation controversy surrounding the school of pharmacy and said he will be actively engaged in making sure Howard meets all the standards set by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).

Speaking before a packed audience in the Blackburn Center at the State of the University address, Swygert told students he has met privately with the ACPE to discuss the accreditation issue, and was "taken aback" by a letter he received last week from the ACPE board recommending the univer-

sity's doctor of pharmacy program, be placed on probation.

Despite his surprise, Swygert said the University had already made progress and that most of the accreditation standards have been met.

"The council accreditation standards are such that there are 30 standards that they look at when accrediting an institution and under the notice that we received the university was deficient in six of the thirty standards," Swygert said. "It is not my goal tonight nor would it be our goal going forward to dispute, to argue with, or to otherwise challenge the findings of the council, but what we hope to do is make clear to the council what we have done to meet the standards as outlined by them."

The ACPE plans "a comprehensive onsite eval-

uation" in September to determine if the pharmacy program should be continued.

If the program is not up to par by the deadline, the council could take the school's accreditation; possibly forcing underclassmen in the school of pharmacy to enroll at another university or risk graduating with a degree that will not be legitimately recognized.

However, students scheduled to graduate in May will not be affected. Under ACPE policy, probation only "reflects a diminished accreditation status" and current graduates will "retain all rights and privileges associated with an accredited program."

According to the letter, which was leaked to members of the student body, the ACPE recommends probation for the pharmacy

program for a host of problems ranging from understaffing to poor student test scores.

The letter said that last year's test results from the board exam for pharmacy licensure "are disturbing." Also noted in the letter, were findings showing that 20 percent of students enrolled in the pharmacy school do not progress with their class.

The letter also criticized the university for failing to turn over the pharmacy school's financial records, to hire more faculty and to provide additional space for a new lecture hall.

Many pharmacy students who attended Swygert's address and spoke with him afterwards, said they were frustrated by his handling of the issue and felt he was short on real answers about how to fix the program.

"We are not satisfied with his response," said third year pharmacy major John Paul Marcus, who spoke with Swygert after his speech. "I felt like he was really just beating around the bush without really answering my questions. It's his responsibility to work with us on this."

Marcus said he and other pharmacy students were not comforted by Swygert's assurances that the University was making progress in meeting the September deadline.

He cited as an example, ACPE's complaint in its letter that it has reached out to university officials numerous times in the past three years requesting that certain problems be corrected.

"The accreditation letter used the word repeatedly, meaning that this issue is not new," Marcus said.

"We want to know what makes this time different when he tells us that it will get fixed."

Other pharmacy students said that given Howard's stature in the academic community, news of one of its school's possibly losing its accreditation is troubling. "When did it become acceptable for a university of such prestige to have its accreditation taken?" said third year pharmacy student Ayanina Gardner.

Swygert urged students to remain calm and said he will work frantically to have the pharmacy program up to standard by September.

"It's in the university's interest for you to succeed," the president told a group of pharmacy students after his speech. "It's in the school's interests that you succeed."

Words from the EIC: The Hilltop Sacrifice



BY RUTH L. TIBDALE

As *The Hilltop's* one-year anniversary approached this year, I thought about how this historic event has changed my life. Of course I can talk about the myriad of experience that I have gained through this adventure, and I can talk about how the daily has prepared me for the real world, but the what the daily means to me in one word is sacrifice.

As I sit in the office typing these words, I have two mid-terms due tomorrow, a culture artifact speech to make up in my Principles of Speech (please be gracious to me, Dr. Babbs) two best articles due to my Advance Reporting and Writing teacher and internship material to send out to prospective employers, and yet here I am sitting here in this office with blood-shot eyes trying to make sure that the paper comes out to our readers.

When undertaking this great endeavor, I had no idea of the many sacrifices I would have to make. No time for friends, barely time to spend with the people I love, no time to put on makeup and decent clothes, only enough time to put on a hat and some sneakers and race to class. I never knew that I would have to deal with so much criticism from Howard officials to the janitors who clean the classrooms.

But it is not just me who gives a great deal of sacrifice to the only daily HBCU newspaper in the country. Section editors flunk class, miss mid-terms just to make sure that their sections have

stories in them.

Staff writers miss important lectures from professors and time with boyfriends and girlfriends just to write news that is pertinent to Howard University and its surrounding community. Managing editors work tirelessly dealing with faulty internet connections, non-working computers and blackouts in the Towers, just to make sure that the paper is running smoothly and efficiently.

Looking throughout the history of *The Hilltop*, sacrifice has been the key that has kept the paper alive for more than 82 years. Since 1924, staff members have postponed graduation, declined internship offers and lived on Ramen noodles, just to be able to work on *The Hilltop*. The Yard is absent of all *Hilltop* members, not because we are unsocialable or don't want to "chill on the Yard," but because we have made a sacrifice to something that is greater than our individualistic wants and have dedicated ourselves and our time to that rich legacy.

I could sit here and type all day about reasons why *The Hilltop* has done what many critics have deemed "impossible" and made it one year less a daily, but these reasons would just hit the surface. The real reason why the daily has survived is that a group of people I affectionately call "H Psi Phi" come together every single daily and sacrifice their lives. The money is definitely not great and attitudes arise, but these writing warriors, persevere through missing class, friends and family to make this dream of *The Hilltop* daily come alive.

Life After The Hilltop Two Former EICs Look Back

BY AYESHA RASCOE

Climbing the ranks to lead one of the top collegiate newspapers in the country can be a daunting task, but for the few who are chosen to be editor-in-chief of *The Hilltop*, the experience can be life altering.

That certainly was the case for Josef Sawyer, who was editor-in-chief the newspaper for the 2003-2004 school year. Sawyer, who is now in graduate school studying journalism at University of California Berkeley, reminisced on his time at the top.

"It was kind of like being in heaven and hell at the same time," he said.

Sawyer said while he enjoyed interacting with students and doing something he loved, there was definitely a downside to being in charge of such a well-read publication.

"The bad side is if you mess up, everyone knows," Sawyer said.

Dealing with people's criticisms of the newspaper were especially hurtful, according to Sawyer, because of the amount of time and effort he put into producing *The Hilltop*. Though Sawyer said he sometimes felt like he was the most hated person on campus, he persevered through the difficult times and learned a great deal about himself along the way.

"I was strong coming into it and the year made me stronger," he said.

Some of the lessons Sawyer said he learned included how to run a business, how to interact with people to get things done, and just basic characteristics about himself. As his

first leadership position, Sawyer said he was intimidated by the legacies left by previous editors.

Putting aside those insecurities, Sawyer decided he should not try to duplicate his predecessors, but instead just be himself.

Sawyer's methods paid off when *The Hilltop* was ranked as the no. 1 college newspaper in the nation by the *Princeton Review* in 2004.

Though Sawyer said he doesn't read *The Hilltop* everyday, he said he tries to check it out online periodically. He said he is proud that the newspaper is now daily, and offers some advice to future *Hilltoppers*.

In addition to remembering to keep the focus on meeting students' needs and continually assessing the newspaper's growth, Sawyer urged the staff to enjoy themselves.

"You have more power than the president [of the university], as far as what gets talked about and that's huge," Sawyer said.

Another person who knows the power of *The Hilltop* is Jason Y. Smith, who presided as editor-in-chief for the 2000-2001 school year. Smith, who is now a legal analyst for the Miami-Dade board of county commissioners, spearheaded the effort to make *The Hilltop* a bi-weekly publication.

"It was tough because no one on campus and even in the School of Communications thought we could do it," Smith said.

Smith, however, proved the naysayers wrong when he began publishing the newspaper twice a week during the spring semester. He

is glad he was able to lay the foundation that ultimately allowed *The Hilltop* to go daily.

"*The Hilltop* is driven by students, but so many people had become complacent with a weekly paper," Smith said. "I think I definitely motivated some students to think beyond what they see."

During his tenure, Smith said he was proud to cover important events such as the 2000 presidential election and the controversy surrounding its outcome, the death of a Howard student, Prince Jones, at the hands of a police officer, and numerous student protests.

Smith reminisced one issue, though, he would rather forget. On the day Al

Gore came to visit campus, a problem at the printer caused the title of the *The Hilltop* to read "The Hilltop." The newspapers had already been distributed around campus, before Smith realized the mistake. Although he had the printer pick up the erroneous papers, reprint, and redistribute the correct version of the paper that day, the damage had already been done.

"It was the biggest disgrace of my life," Smith said.

Despite this bump in the road, Smith said the newspaper was still able to win four separate awards that year. Like Sawyer, Smith also had some words of encouragement for *The Hilltop* staff.

Smith said, "Now that you're daily, take it to the next level...Constantly evolve into something greater."

How the Daily Helped Me Land a Job

BY KEITH LAING

As the anniversary of the first daily edition of the *Hilltop* approaches, I can't help but count the blessing that I received by being able to be one of the first *Hilltoppers* to get that valuable experience.

In journalism, daily experience is the Holy Grail, especially if you desire to work in newspapers. Editors want to see that you can handle the grind of a 24-hour news cycle and the best way to demonstrate that you can is show them that you have. There's nothing quite like having to come out with enough news to fill a newspaper everyday, and having to balance time and projects to get it done.

With that in mind, I was thrilled when *The Hilltop* made the big leap to daily. Starting on February 28, 2005, *The Hilltop* was published more frequently than either of the professional publications I had interned with. Because of the courage of our staff to embrace producing three more papers each week, I can honestly say that I was in a better position to do exactly what I have been doing since July, a scout

2 months after I graduated from Howard. Covering a daily beat for a newspaper that is published six days a week.

And believe it or not, upon starting here at the *Brunswick News*, I had an even better appreciation for having been part of producing a daily newspaper while in school. Everything that is done in the newsroom I currently work in was done by *The Hilltop* once we went daily. There were absolutely no surprises. I was able to jump right in and begin working, and because of being familiar with the ways of a daily newspaper, I have been able to produce nearly 200 articles since I started here.

Had it not been for that historic decision to become the first black college daily newspaper, I would have not been on a level playing in a newsroom in which I was the only Black reporter until very recently. Most of my peers came from majority schools that had daily newspapers, and I proudly told them that my alma mater did as well. We frequently share stories about late production nights and battles with sources, and I am able to be there tale for tale.



The Hilltop has always been a breeding ground for award-winning journalists, and on this day one year ago, it became an even faster track to that success. Be proud of yourselves for having succeeded at one year of covering day-to-day Howard life, and strive to make your coverage of the Moco even bigger and better in the next year. Happy Daily Anniversary *Hilltop* and many more!

Hilltop is No. 2

BY RUSHONDRA JAMES

On every issue of last year's *Hilltop*, *Hilltoppers* were all pleased to be able to include the small text box that said "Hilltop Ranked #1 College Newspaper by Princeton Review." This year, *The Hilltop* is just as proud to be ranked the number 2 newspaper following the University of Arizona. After all, several changes have been made since the number one ranking.

Instead of just being published on Tuesdays and Fridays, the *Hilltop* decided to publish a daily paper. Now the *Hilltop* can boast as being the only "HBCU" daily in the country.

For its ranking as the number one college newspaper, the *Hilltop* received coverage by outside newspapers such as the *Washington Post*.

Last year's ranking of number one was discovered by *The Hilltop's* Editor in Chief, Ruth L. Tibdale. According to a *Washington Post* article, Tibdale was searching the Princeton Review website for Howard's Name and came across the number one ranking.

The Hilltop is the student voice of Howard University and that is just how news is reported in the paper. Student staff members plan what stories will be included in the paper, select contributing writers to help with the stories and edit the stories for publication on a daily basis. This is usually done with little to no input by University officials.

The *Hilltop's* story content ranges from the latest news across the nation to the hottest

styles on campus for the current season, which leaves students questioning this year's ranking.

Junior Broadcast Journalism major Macki McKee feels this year's ranking of number two is quite interesting.

"It is ironic that *The Hilltop* is now number two when there seems to be more 'on the spot' news covered in the paper than the papers from the previous term," she said.

The Princeton Review makes its rankings based on a survey of 100,000 undergraduates. The results of the surveys are placed in the *Reviews 357 Best Colleges Guide* that is published each year.

The actual question asked in the survey is "How popular is your college newspaper?" The category is "Extracurriculars." Following Howard in third and fourth places are the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Yale University, respectively.

Senior Broadcast Journalism major, Catherine Theonius feels that the number two ranking is still something to be proud of. "Even though we were number one, number two is still good. Dropping to number two is not necessarily a bad thing. The paper is still excellent," she said.

Though the *Hilltop* was very proud of their ranking as number one college newspaper, they are even more excited to be celebrating a year of "going daily" and another year of serving as the student voice of Howard University.

A Timeless Creed

The Hilltop Creed was written three decades ago, and still rings true today.

Our objective is to motivate our readers to be dedicated to serving our people and rebuilding our communities.

We do this by providing relevant news, information, pictures, art and ideas.

Like a sword *The Hilltop* is a weapon for freedom, and truth is the foundation of our efforts.

**TIRED OF THE SAME SPEAK OUTS YEAR AFTER YEAR?
HAVE A BURNING QUESTION THAT YOU WANT TO ASK
THE CANDIDATES?
WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE?**

COME TO THE HILLTOP HUSA SPEAK OUT!

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HILLTOP BUDGET MEETING TONIGHT)**

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From Maya's Archives...



Senior photo editor Maya Gilliam has been with The Hilltop for four years. She's accumulated more than a few photos of the staff, and dug up a few photos to share as we reminisce about the pre-daily days. Clockwise from top: Bernard "Post" Murray when he was a sports editor; former Life & Style Editor Jennifer L. Williams and former sports editor Zac Kenworthy; Jozen Cummings, former L&S editor, and the staff at Charter day, with 2002-2003 EIC Lauren B. Anderson in the center.



Staffers Balance Production, Class, and College Life

The crisscross of dreamless slumber at 7 a.m. to get started on a day full of classes including an hour of getting tossed around in judo. Next, she heads almost directly to *The Hilltop* office after a brief opportunity to steal an hour for a nap or to relax. Then, she grinds it out in the production office until the paper is sent to the printers around a.m., only to hit the bed and prepare to do it all over again.

This is the routine of *Hilltop* managing editor Staci O. Hillen. This senior print journalism major who has been on staff for four years has a hectic schedule that reflects the agenda of most staff members of *The Hilltop*.

With such a busy schedule, school work may take a back seat for some. "You can't take an L on *The Hilltop* because you're letting down

the whole campus, but when you take an L on an assignment it only affects you," said Nation & World editor Vanessa Mink.

Other *Hilltop* staff members disagree. "I don't want to use *The Hilltop* as a reason not to get my work done because I am a student first," Hillen said.

Juggling the responsibilities of being a student and working for the newspaper is made more difficult by the expectations of professors. "They expect more out of us... If you turn in crap, they'll say, 'Don't you work for *The Hilltop*?' and assistant copy chief Sam Mosley.

When asked to sum up the *Hilltop*, Life & Style editor Cara Fambale and Mosley agreed that working on the *Hilltop* is "interesting."

"I get to see all the different

personalities and I get to see how it's possible for people who are so fun loving to be so focused when necessary," said Fambale, a junior English major.

Mosley finds being on staff "interesting, because I get to read newspapers and get paid for it," said the senior English major. "That's one of my pastimes, reading papers and magazines."

Others chose to focus on intensity of producing the only HBCU daily newspaper. "There's pressure to make deadlines, pressure to continue the great legacy that *The Hilltop* was founded on, pressure to inform 11,000 students and faculty, plus the pressure of being a student. When you add all that up it makes for a very intense working environment," Mink said.

The pressure of working for the

collegiate paper, ranked #12 by the Princeton Review, is a sentiment that other *Hilltoppers* also feel.

"It's like Chuck E. Cheese from 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. then from 10:30 on it's like an emergency room," said Mosley of production nights.

Fambale had a similar view. "It's, at once, very stressful and very fun. But the later it gets, the less fun it is and people just want to get out," she said.

Stress and pressure are just a couple of the changes to the *Hilltop* experience that came along with the switch to daily yet most staffers take it in stride and have pride in the legacy.

"We are continuing the legacy of Howard being a pioneer in black collegiate history by being the first to go daily," Hillen said.

Former Staffers Discuss Aphrodite's Influence at The Hilltop

BY YASMINE PARRISH
Hilltop Staff Writer

Between long hours of staff meetings, late nights in the office and away retreats and conferences where almost anything goes, there has been some *Hilltop* love over the years.

Although no one really wanted to spill all the beans, previous editors did uncover a lot of soap-opera-like dramas that occurred in the infamous *Hilltop* office.

"Because of the perceived power that the *Hilltop* brought, it was an easy way to get a girlfriend or boyfriend," said 2000-2001 editor in chief, Jason Smith. "I don't know if I would call it all love, but there was a lot of shacking up done amongst staffers," he laughed, while adding that some less-than-talented female writers were sometimes hired because of their good looks.

One of the most infamous hook-up spots in the office was the staff couch.

"I think you all have a new couch now," Smith said. "But back then that couch was just nasty. It had coffee stains and everything. You wouldn't want to sit, lay, or touch that couch because

Y O U

never knew whose juices were left behind. There were always rumors of people hooking up."

Hearing whispers of the goings-on of other staff members led many editors to try hard to not have their name in the latest office rumor.

"I tried to keep my nose clean of all of that kind of stuff," said 2003-2004 editor in chief, Josef Sawyer, who claimed he had a short-lived romance with a Nation & World editor. "Everyone in the office tried to play like they were single but then you'd see them on campus with someone."

When the *Hilltop* was paper sent from weekly to biweekly, all editors had a key to the *Hilltop* office, making the office a prime location for late night rendezvous for editors and their significant others.

"The editors got their fair share and the EICs [Editor in Chief] were not immune either," Smith said.

"When I was EIC, everyone thought I was dating the copy chief,

Stacey Gains," Sawyer said. "Stacey was one of those people who stayed late, so after we put the paper to bed we would go and hang out. She was really cool and we were really cool but there was nothing more there, contrary to popular belief."

The *Hilltop* presents itself as a non-biased paper whose Editorial Board selects Howard University Student Association candidates to endorse when election time comes around.

Therefore, members of the Editorial Board having romantic relationships with HUSA candidates creates a sticky situation.

"People were dating HUSA candidates, Jason Ravin [2003-2004 HUSA candidate] was dating one of the editors, which was a huge problem when it came time for us to endorse a candidate," Sawyer said, who laughed while mentioning that he had gone on a few dates with members of HUSA.

Smith also witnessed a rather scandalous occurrence during his time on staff at The

Hilltop.

"It was rumored that some section editors said they got unscheduled pay raises because of their special relationships with EICs. If an audit was done, I'm sure that some raises and relationships could be traced. And that's all I'm going to say," Smith said.

With the late hours and the strong bond staffers gain throughout the year, sparking romances are inevitable. Year after year, countless romances are rumored among *Hilltoppers*.

While the truth behind the rumors is uncertain, one thing is for sure, "everyone always kept it professional," Smith said. "No one ever let their relationships affect their work at the paper. The paper was always above everyone's relationships."

"As journalists, we try to be fair and unbiased but when it comes to love, you just can't apply that," Sawyer said. "And with *Hilltoppers* and dating it's the same thing. At the end of the day we're just regular students like everyone else."



Above: 2003-2004 Editor in Chief Josef Sawyer, Life & Style editor Jozen Cummings and Columbia University exchange student and staffer David Johns. Left: 2003-2004 Managing Editor Aisha Chaney, Photo Editor Maya Gilliam and Stephanie Johnson. *Hilltoppers* enjoyed Charter Day 2004 a little too much. At right: the infamous *Hilltop* couch.



The Hilltop Takes Three 1st Place Awards Plus 13 at HBCU Conference

BY CHRISTINA M. WRIGHT
Campus Editor

The *Hilltop* staff asked in a record 16 awards in the 2005 HBCU "Excellence in Journalism" Student Newspaper Contest this year at the 8th Annual HBCU Newspaper Conference in Greensboro, NC.

"As a former *Hilltopper*, it is good to know that the current crop of *Hilltoppers* are giving some quality work," said Keith Laing, former Life & Style Editor.

Although some awards had the *Hilltop* name on them, the staff was surprised by the of the winning pieces. One was the first place win for the coverage of the Millionaire Movement. Confusion and a close deadline loomed over this project, and it required all hands on deck.

Another first place winner was the Life & Style section for Best Features/Arts and Entertainment Section. Many of the entries were from Spring 2005, when former Laing was editor.

"I tried to do a lot of things with the section, and I always felt like I did a good job on my days and even on the other days that Erin Williams [was in charge]," Laing said.

Jana Homes was the successor of Laing as Life & Style Editor, and since the January through



The *Hilltop* has achieved much success over the past year.

December entry period she has crossed into her stint in the position. She was especially satisfied with the award.

"In terms of Life & Style winning first place, it feels really gratifying and pride-inducing," said Jana Homes, former managing editor. "It's gratifying because all the long hours in the office and all of the calls to contributing writers were not in vain. And I feel an immense sense of pride to have been a part of *The Hilltop* legacy and the 'mark of Zora.'"

The Hilltop received its final first place win for the Editorial & Opinion section, which fea-

ture perspectives from readers and an editorial decided on by the paper's Editorial Board. The judges said *The Hilltop* stood out among the entries because of the "good range and depth of editorial."

"The board seems commendable weighing in on various topics, whether it's free speech or fashion," the judges said.

Members of the Editorial Board, which include the editor in chief, the copy chief, and all managing editors, editors, assistant editors and deputy editors, are proud of this award because it is "an across the board effort."

"Because our staff is so opinionated and passionate, something that allows us to dedicate so much time to the paper, it is always an experience to get the group to come to one opinion," said managing editor, Charneah Jackson. "It's a lot of fun hearing other opinions that you never thought about, and it makes us walk away more informed."

The contest entries were judged by professional journalists from the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, the Associated Press, Newsday and the New York Daily News.

The entries for the contest were selected and submitted by the staff last semester. They ranged throughout 2005, and the entries crossed over two different school years and staffs.

Other noteworthy *Hilltop* accolades include Best Student Newspaper, Twice Weekly or More Often, 2nd place; Best Online Newspaper, 3rd place; Best Spot News, 2nd place; Best Use of Photography, 2nd place; Best Design, Brochure, 3rd place; Best Sports Feature, 2nd place; Best Sports News or Game Story, 2nd place; Best Feature Writing, 2nd place; Best Overall Sports Coverage, 2nd place; Best Individual Page Design, 3rd place; and Best Individual Photography, 2nd and 3rd.



She's... to share... Williams... editor, and... nter.



The Hilltop



Paper Chase: The Business of Newspapers



Business office assistants Laura Aderotoye and Ashley Marshall (left and right), and Business Manager Arlon Jamerson (center) smile at the 8th Annual HBCU conference.

BY STACY A. ANDERSON
Business & Technology Editor

Students are often unaware of the hard work put into publishing a daily campus paper with the latest pressing issues of college campus and the surrounding community. They also overlook the efforts of the business office that works diligently to ensure there is enough revenue to even produce a paper.

"Essentially, we get advertisements, which is the main monetary resource for the *Hilltop*," assistant business manager Lindsey Hurt said. "We generate and maintain relationships with advertisers."

The six-member business office, comprised of a business manager, assistant manager, advertising manager, and three office assistants secure funds to print 7,500 copies of *The Hilltop* five days a week.

"If there was no business office, essentially, it would be chaotic because we keep our customers satisfied and well informed."

According to the business manager, Arlon Jamerson, the weekly budget is to raise at least \$7,000 a week. Revenue varies each week depending on upcoming events like Spring Break or SOG's Career Fair, which can increase advertisement revenue as high as \$11,000 a week. Jamerson, said the business office has already collected \$48,000 in advertisements for last semester.

Jamerson, a senior art major and advertising minor, said *The Hilltop* has a

larger scale production compared to other college newspapers and therefore needs more funding.

"Some schools give the paper more money for a newspaper... But with our budget for this year including staffing, printing, technology — we are at a greater scale as far as producing a daily paper with a big staff. We wouldn't have a paper or everyone wouldn't get paid and that wouldn't work because it is very time consuming," Jamerson said.

All members of the business staff rotate their time and class schedules to maintain the regular office hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during Monday through Friday.

Junior marketing major Laura Aderotoye became an office assistant this school year, and spends up to four days a week in the office.

Some of Aderotoye's responsibilities are answering the phone, filing documents, storing past newspapers, handling *Hilltoppers* and responding to customer queries.

Aderotoye said she likes working for the *Hilltop* because of what it stands for on campus and in the community.

"*The Hilltop* is considered the campus informer. It's one of the most popular sources for information dealing with what's going on around campus, locally and nationally."

Aderotoye said the business office prepares students for the work force after college.

"Any job is a stepping stone because it

requires you to gain more knowledge," she said. "It's helped me a lot with the mindset of placing ads and promoting products. It's made me more responsible in regards to holding down my part in operation of the office. I've grown a lot through position."

Morgan Scott, who served as assistant business manager last year, said the experience with *The Hilltop* has greatly influenced her future career. The senior international business major has already accepted a job as an assistant planning manager for Time Inc., which produces magazines like *Essence* and *Teen* People.

"I wasn't introduced to any type of business in communications before *The Hilltop*," Scott said. "I was able to get a host of skills... I also learned how to multitask, was a student and had a second job too. *The Hilltop* is why I have the job I have now."

The skills Scott learned in the business office such as budgeting and handling invoices will go to good as she starts her new position this summer in New York.

All staffers commented about the lasting relationships and promotion of professionalism while working in *The Hilltop* business office.

"It gives you skills you'll need in an office setting. It also helps you to learn how to work and handle yourself on a professional level," Hurt said. "As far as relationships we do enjoy each other and have our moments."

THERE WILL BE NO BUDGET MEETING TONIGHT!

CONTACT EDITORS DIRECTLY FOR STORIES

THE HILLTOP:

- 16 AWARDS

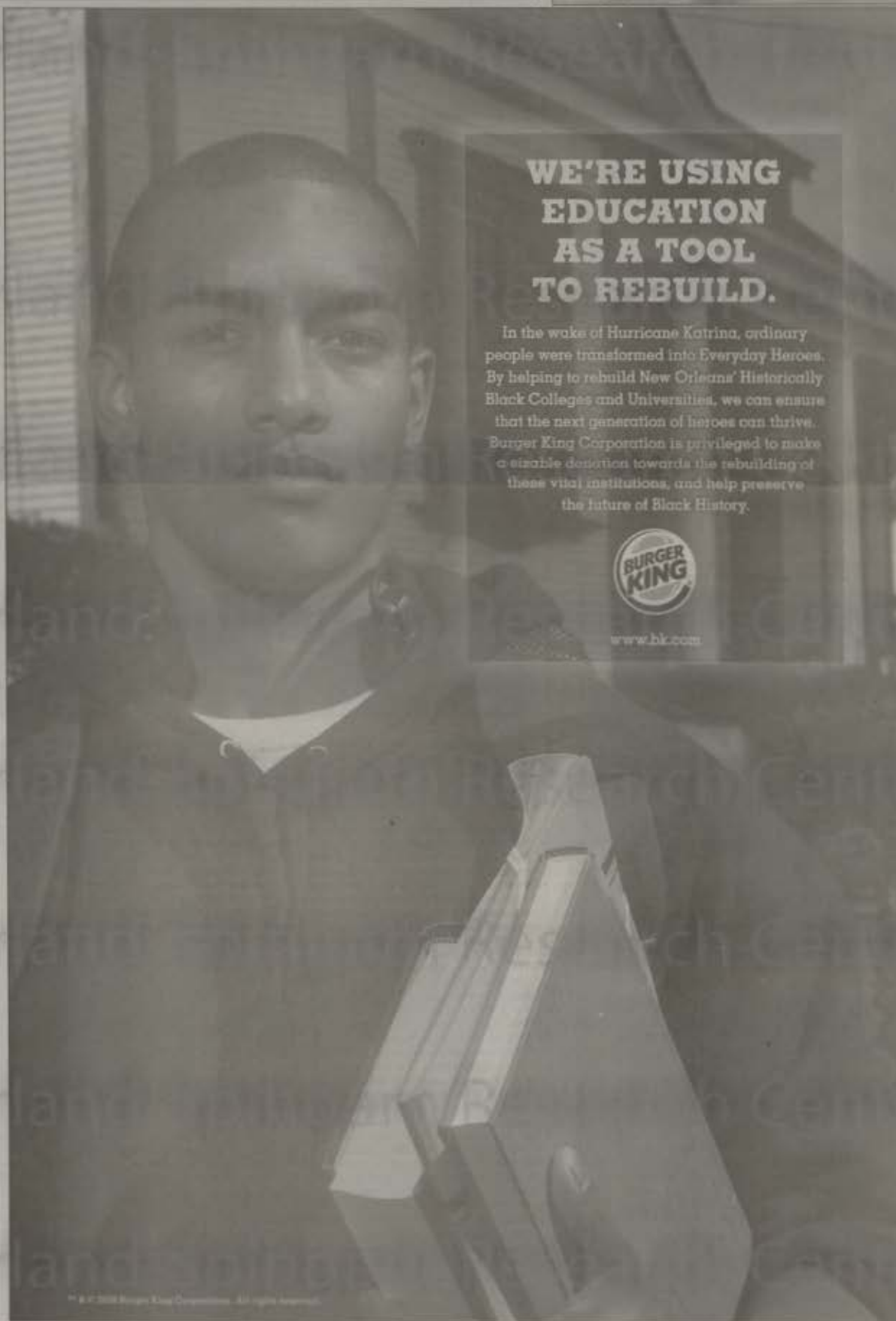
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- ONLY DAILY HBCU NEWS-PAPER

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- SEEN ON BET

IN ONE WORD: EXCELLENCE



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EDITORIALS & Perspectives

VOLUME 89, NO. 95

FEBRUARY 28, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM



Who Cared About the Winter Olympics?

What happens to us in the winter? Is there some physiological aspect of our bodies that keeps us from functioning in the cold? We don't want to go out, and we basically shut down over the course of the winter.

Black people stereotypically are labeled as being very involved with sports. We excel in football, basketball, baseball, soccer and every other sport imaginable. Just when we thought tennis and golf weren't any fun, Venus, Serena and Tiger Woods proved us all wrong. Although there are some African-American athletes involved in the Winter Olympics, many of us haven't been tuning in.

You might think we'd all be a bit more excited about Olympic speed skater, Stani Davis, becoming the first black

athlete to earn an individual gold medal at the competition. His swift time won him the men's first 1,000 meters. Such a monumental event should have garnered a lot more support and praise, but few people know about Davis or his achievement.

Our View:

It seems that the games come and go without the blink of an eye from the black community.

We think the reason we don't put as much energy toward the Winter Olympics is the fact that black athletes aren't as well represented as they are in other athletic arenas.

Many of us aren't familiar with skiing, snowboarding or other snow-related sports.

A large number of us get hype when we watch the track and field portions of the Olympic games and other categories we see in the major sports leagues. However, we shouldn't be so narrow-minded in our entertainment. Some Hilltoppers started watching some events after having the discussion only to find that the Winter Olympics are not as dull as we anticipated. If white people

didn't watch something just because they didn't really see themselves on the screen or on the field, they would miss out on an array of entertainment. Let's not limit ourselves either.

Jermaine Woods

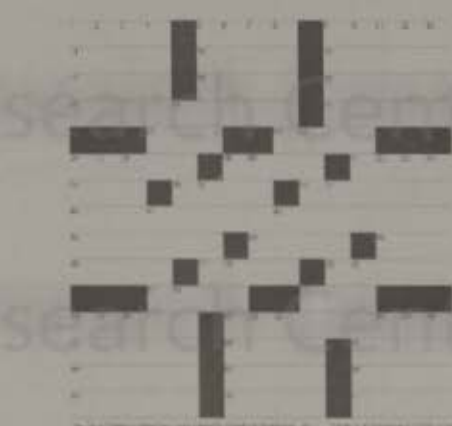
10006 SEE YOU IN COURT by Eddy R. Stein, edited by Dorcas Benjamin

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Letter of Appreciation to Black Women who Stick with Black Men

First, I want to acknowledge the truth about spousal love. It has no restrictions or boundaries in regards to gender, class, age, appearance, religion or race. When someone truly falls in love with someone else, they are falling in love with their character, and not because their races match. Secondly, I want to acknowledge the truth that the majority of U.S. prison inmates are black males, and that the ratio of girls to guys at Howard is 2 to 1, and that Howard has its share of gay males, not to mention the ones on the down-low.

I, a black heterosexual male student here at Howard University, and I just wanted to acknowledge the black women who have not given up on us despite our current circumstances. I have never dated or been involved with a white female, not to say that I wouldn't, it's just that my Mom loved me with all her ability, and it is for this reason that I prefer, and have always preferred, black women. In "Girl, I Need Me a White Man" the author's rea-

sons for abandoning black men and "needing" a white one was because there are not enough to go around due to prison, homosexuality and interracial dating. The author also considers the movie "Something New", actress Halle Berry and Shar Jackson dating white men, and whatever other situation that may make black males unavailable to black females.

First of all, the disproportionate number of black males in prison have added members to the gay community whether openly or on the down-low. Secondly, if Sanaa Lathan, whose actress I enjoy, played a role in a movie where she killed off females to decrease competition, does that mean it is justifiable to do it in real life? Thirdly, while Shar Jackson was pregnant with her and white Kevin Federline's baby, he left her for Britney Spears! Speaking of abandonment I will say that I treated my black ex-girlfriend as good as I possibly could, and she dugged me and broke my heart, I have been disrespected by some black females here

at Howard because I'm not a "thug" and I know that the media often try to equate superior beauty with white females and/or their physical features. These things could have clearly led me to change my preference and pursue white girls, but I have not and I still prefer black girls.

The majority of black males' economic status in this country is currently at a low point, however things will get better. To the black girls who choose to stray to another race of men only because we are at a low point in our history and it's a challenge, I say go because you are showing your true character. Just don't come back as things get better because the doors will be locked. But to the black females who are sticking with black males during these challenging times, I just wanted to say thank you, and I really appreciate you for persevering and not giving up on us.

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Here is its final year. The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 1,000, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial and Perspectives Page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Hilltop Editorial Board, Howard University, its administration or the student body.

The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to The Editor or Perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically to our website at www.thehilltop.com.

The Hilltop editorial office is located at 2025 Sherman Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20052 and can also be reached via email at thehilltop@hilltop.com and by phone at (202) 800-4754. The Hilltop business office can be reached via email at hilltopbusiness@hilltop.com and by phone at (202) 800-4749.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and our insouciance, bluntness or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

2006 GENERAL ELECTIONS BALLOT • VOTE THURSDAY MARCH 2

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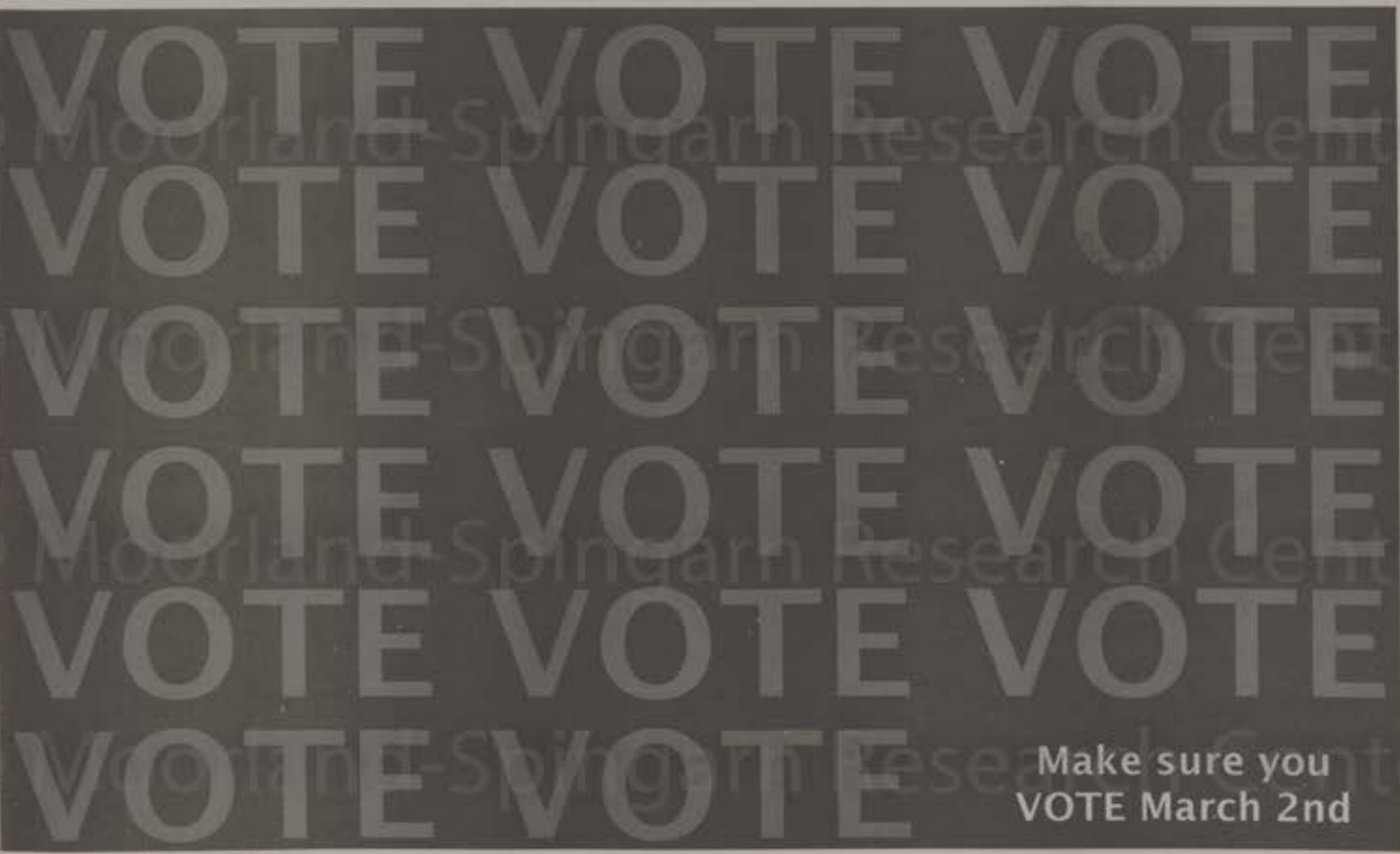
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2006

*King of the Ivy Pageant:
In Search of Superman*

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Blackburn Ballroom

7:08p.m.

**The Hilltop Policy Board is
currently seeking applicants
for the 2006-2007:**

Editor-in-Chief Business Manager

**Applications are
available in the
Office of Student Activities,
Blackburn Center Suite 117**

**Applications are due on
March 10, 2006
by 5:00 pm**

The  Hilltop

The Mark of Zora

BY SHANAE HARRIS
Asst. Campus Editor

As The Hilltop celebrates its one year anniversary as the daily student voice of Howard University, it is important to show respect to the person who placed the building blocks of this publication on Howard's campus 82 years ago in 1924, founder and acclaimed author Zora Neale Hurston.

Writer, anthropologist, and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston was born in Notasulga, Alabama and grew up in Eatonville, Florida. She began her undergraduate studies at Howard University before transferring to Barnard College where she received her B.A. in anthropology in 1928. While at Barnard, she conducted ethnographic research under her advisor, the noted anthropologist Franz Boas at Columbia University. She also worked with Ruth Benedict as well as fellow anthropology student Margaret Mead.

From the 1920s through the 1960s, Hurston was one of the most prolific and accomplished black women writers in America. During this fifty-year period, she published seven books, many short stories,



Founder Zora Neale Hurston has left a lasting legacy for the students of Howard University. Left: the first Hilltop.

magazine articles and plays, and she gained a reputation as an outstanding folklorist and novelist.

Hurston applied her ethnographic training from Barnard to fiction in the acclaimed and well-known novel "Their Eyes

Were Watching God," which, in 2002, became a movie produced by Oprah Winfrey. Hurston contributed to the art of blues as well, composing and leading a dance group which performed works such as the 1931 Broadway performance

"The Great Day." In addition, Hurston traveled and studied in Haiti in 1937, becoming one of the first to conduct an ethnographic study of the Vodou.

An article entitled, "In Search of Zora Neale Hurston," by Alice Walker published in the March 1975 issue of "Ms. Magazine," was shown to coincide with the popularity and critical acclaim of authors such as Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, and Walker Lenzell, whose works are centered on African American experiences which include the racial struggle.

Hurston passed away penniless in obscurity and was buried in an unmarked grave in Fort Pierce, Florida until fiction writer Alice Walker found and marked the grave in 1975, sparking a virtual Hurston renaissance.

Zora Neale Hurston is remembered mostly for her marks as an award-winning writer, and being an author by an black culture from the Harlem Renaissance. As Howard students, we remember Hurston for instilling the legacy of The Hilltop onto the

"There is no agony like bearing an untold story inside of you."

Zora Neale Hurston



When we get a chance to escape the office, Hilltopers like Ashley, Vanessa, Amber, Laura, Shanae and Yasmine cut loose. Others, like Drew and Josh, mug for the camera.

Staffers at work and play



But Don't Take Our Word For It: What The Hilltop Daily Means to HBCUs

The Hilltop recently won 16 awards at the annual HBCU Newspaper Conference held at North Carolina A&T University. This was the most awards ever given to a university in the history of the conference. While other HBCUs won many other awards, The Hilltop is the only daily publication. So what does that mean to the other Historically Black Colleges and Universities around the nation?

"It is a good thing that The Hilltop is daily because they showed that HBCUs have that capacity. A lot of the white schools have daily papers and it's good that Howard showed that it can be in the same field. I think that's why Howard is viewed as an upper echelon school, because it is a trailblazer. But if The Hilltop wants to assume that role as a trailblazer, it cannot ignore the fact that, for as a people must lift up or climb. It is climbing to the top but what is it doing to lift up other HBCUs? Why isn't it communicating with

other institutions?"
-Brandon Lawrence, freshman business management major and associate managing editor of the Maroon Tiger (Morehouse College)

"Two things: it shows us the disadvantages of going to a HBCU because we don't get the same recognition that other schools do. I think that it's a shame that it took us so long to get to that level. But I also think that it's a victory and an achievement in that it gives motivation for other HBCUs to do the same. It's closing the gap between HBCUs and other schools so it doesn't feel like such a disadvantage."
-Victoria Curry, sophomore drama major (Spelman College)

"It hasn't affected me personally. However, I think it's very important. It really says something about the caliber of student journalists on Howard's campus. I also think it sets a precedent and tone for other HBCU newspapers."

"Nancy Shores' and-year business administration major (Hampton University)

"It gives other HBCUs motivation to strive and do big things. Being a daily on a college level is a big deal. It doesn't affect me personally because it's two different campuses. However, I think going daily was a good idea. It gets your community involved and it gets news out there faster."

-Alexis Mason, Junior Print Journalism Mass Communications major (NCAT)

"I'm glad that Howard was the first and it'll pave the way for the other HBCUs; however, it's long overdue. It's going to give a lot of people more experience and make them more marketable in the industry, students can better serve their readers and gain experience."

-Yanick Blue-Lamb, professor of journalism at Howard University, Hilltop Advisor

"The Hilltop going daily is good, but we need to be more focused on [bringing] other HBCUs to a level where we can report news on a daily basis."

-Jeffrey Brown, sophomore broadcast journalism major (Norfolk University)

"It shows that it is important for other schools that teach journalism to see that students at HBCUs can successfully put out a daily newspaper as both a learning tool and an instrument for spreading news around the school and community. Being able to write under the pressure of a daily deadline will make the students a viable force in such a competitive industry. And if Howard can do it so can other schools. Other journalism schools really need to get on the bandwagon because journalism is changing so quickly."

-Yvonne Shinkuder-Lamb, Howard Advisor Professor and Washington Post journalist.

Dear Mr. Tisdale:

Congratulations to you and your staff for the energy and hard work that you have put in over the past year to take The Hilltop from two, to five days a week. This is certainly a reflection of your passion and commitment bearing in mind that as students, there are many more demands on your time.

As you go into another year, I know that you will continue The Hilltop's long tradition of service to the community. I trust also that you will strive to make The Hilltop not only the finest college newspaper, but an effective and worthwhile training ground for those of our students intending to pursue careers in journalism and public affairs.

Again my congratulations to you and the entire Hilltop editors and staff.

Sincerely,

H. Patrick Snygert