The Silent Treatment

Following Hampton University’s censorship and seizure of its school paper, NABJ examines HBCUs, student rights and the mis-education of black college journalists
It’s not just about being part of the financial community.

It’s about being part of your community.
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HBCU Mis-education?
Paper seizure at Hampton University poses questions about what journalism students are learning.

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NABJ members from around the nation form the association’s first gospel choir and sing praise at the Gospel Brunch in Dallas.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JO-ANN FIRSON
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very NABJ member should be proud of Talia Buford and Efe Osagie, two aspiring black journalists who demonstrated great courage and leadership in helping to hold university officials and racists accountable.

Both of these young women recently showed that you don’t need 20 years in the business before you have the responsibility to protect the First Amendment or to fight for fair and sensitive coverage of our community.

Their experiences also showed why our presence as a national organization with strong local professional and student chapters is vital.

By now, many of you know about Buford (page 23). As editor of the Hampton Script, she helped lead a revolt after the Hampton University administration confiscated the school newspaper because her staff insisted on maintaining its independence concerning news content.

NABJ quickly joined many journalism organizations and student advocates to support Buford and her staff in Virginia. Our open letter condemned the seizure, warned against repercussions against the students and ultimately helped to protect their right to practice their craft.

While the Hampton story reverberated across NABJ and the country, an equally important but lesser known journalistic battle was waged at Rutgers University in New Jersey. That’s where Osagie stepped in.

Her family is from Nigeria, but she was born in the Bronx and raised not far from Rutgers, where she’s a senior majoring in journalism and media studies—and president of the Rutgers University Assn. of Black Journalists (RUABJ), one of our newest student chapters.

Osagie made sure the chapter joined other black student groups in challenging a campus satirical publication that put out an issue with a lot of hate-charged comments about blacks. Working with NABJ leaders, RUABJ denounced the issue, helped plan a campus protest rally and called for reducing the publication’s funding. To Osagie’s dismay, the administration ended up opting for a “campus climate survey” on the larger issue of unrest, tension and outbreaks of deviant behavior targeted at groups at Rutgers.

Osagie said the experience taught her plenty about working with others—particularly other black student groups—to organize and motivate people into taking action.

“It is not an easy thing to do,” she wrote to me in an e-mail. “There were so many personalities, so many objectives, and so many varying approaches to solving a problem...[and] a huge rift that truly upset me. I wanted unity, one cause, and one course of action.”

Unity is not always possible. But I believe these leadership lessons will help make Buford and Osagie, and the student editors and chapter leaders who fought with them, not only better journalists after they graduate, but more able and willing to fight for the concerns we all share in our newsrooms as well. For sure, they are the kind of future board members we want for our local professional chapters or our national board of directors.

Meanwhile, I have to ask this question: What about the countless black journalism students still unable to practice their craft without interference?

NABJ steadfastly supports ensuring that every black journalism student gets not only the best education, but also access to quality campus media.

While we do our part on the national level, I urge every NABJ member to spend time at a local campus, especially if it’s a historically black college or university, instructing or mentoring those who seek to come behind us.

No doubt, there are other Bufords and Osagies out there ready to hold campus officials accountable. We must all help to show them the way.

Herbert Lowe is a courts reporter at Newsday in Queens, N.Y.
We believe.

The struggle is not yet won.
In the mission of the NABJ.
In joining hands.
In the American experiment.

In you.
Delivering Value to Our Members

By Tangie Newborn

NABJ members, you have spoken!

In a recent online membership survey, you asked for additional benefits. Your national board of directors and staff have heard you and we are working to make it happen.

Here is a sampling:

AUTO-RENEWAL – A secure and convenient way to continue your valuable membership benefits and services automatically. Take the hassle out of remembering to return the paper renewal notice. Your membership will be renewed each year once you provide NABJ with your credit card information. Continue to enjoy member discounts on convention registration fees and Media Institute programs. Stay abreast of the latest news affecting black journalists via the NABJ Web site, The NABJ Journal and NABJ E-News, our electronic newsletter. NABJobs Online, our Web-based job service, and our membership directory continue to be at your fingertips at www.nabj.org — so long as your membership remains current.

MULTI-YEAR MEMBERSHIP – Full members can take advantage of dues savings by renewing their membership in two- or five-year intervals. Renew now for two years and pay only $150 (a savings of $10) or for five years and pay $350 (a savings of $50).

MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENTS – Soon to come dues options will add value to your membership. These options include lifetime membership. In addition, for those who want extra perks we will have that, too. Full members will have the chance to upgrade to a premium membership that will give them such added value as advance notice on job openings, further discounts on convention and Media Institute program registrations, special lines at conventions to speed registration, VIP invitations to special member events and more. Watch the Web site for more information as these options become available.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY CD – We want to help you stay in touch with your friends and easily network with your colleagues. This year, members will get our membership directory on a CD, much like those offered by universities and Greek-letter organizations. We are updating our membership records now. Watch for your update form and return it right away. Don’t get left out.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT YEAR-ROUND – The NABJ Media Institute continues to offer intensive and highly sought after professional development sessions. These sessions provide cutting-edge techniques to help journalists and students compete in newsrooms today and tomorrow. Look out for information on the several Institute programs now in the works.

MEMBER SERVICES DEPARTMENT – Our staff in Adelphi, Md., is ready to assist you with your membership needs. No more trying to figure out who to call when you have a question.

Whether it’s to join NABJ, renew your membership or register for a program, contact the staff at memberservices@nabj.org or call us at (301) 445-7100 ext. 101.

Without a doubt, these new perks will add value to your membership. They will also allow you to save time and money.

Throughout the year, we hope to add new and improved member benefits. We encourage you to take advantage of these new features. Remember, visit www.nabj.org often for new details.

Tangie Newborn heads the NABJ national office in Adelphi, Md.

NABJ STAFF

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CLOSE TO HOME

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  • Partners with CCE in the "Odyssey Project," a summer camp for inner-city young people.

- James Young, President/CEO, Citizens Trust Bank
  • Leads a consortium of 26 minority banks partnering with CCE.

- Charles Cornelius, President/CEO, Atlanta Life Financial Group
  • Insures 15% of CCE's employees.

- Vicki R. Palmer
  Senior Vice President, Treasurer and Special Assistant to the CEO
  Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.

- Livia Whisenhunt, President, PS Energy, Inc.
  • Provides natural gas services to CCE facilities in Georgia and Florida.

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Close To Our Partners And Close To Home
Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.
A few weeks ago, I received a call from our new NABJ President Herbert Lowe. When I saw his name on the caller ID, I thought he was calling for an update on activities of the Student Education Enrichment Development program (S.E.E.D.), then to talk about our upcoming season in fantasy basketball.

However, the president had a request. “How would you feel if you were the editor of The Journal?” he asked.

Well, at first I was a bit surprised. However, the more I thought about it, the more I felt comfortable being able to serve NABJ, yet again.

My No. 1 goal is to make this publication one of the top journals in the nation. When I depart this position, I want to say that this editorial team made an impact with this periodical.

To make that goal a reality, we have to take on this project through a process.

The first thing I want to accomplish—in capturing the president’s vision as well as my own—is putting together a team that has the same drive, commitment and volunteering spirit that has helped to put NABJ in the position it was in during its first 28 years.

We have successfully involved the copy editing and visual task forces in the production process of this magazine, so we will be showcasing the skills of OUR people in OUR publication. We are going to follow the president’s vision of NABJ365, where all members of our association will participate in the process.

The next step is to develop a reporting staff of quality journalists who can help spread NABJ’s message and set the tone for the industry as a whole. We implore you to volunteer and share your skills with the organization.

Whether you are a beginning, mid-career or veteran reporter, we encourage you to join this exciting new team.

Finally, we will produce a publication that addresses the issues, long- and short-term. We want to tackle issues facing this organization, the industry and the world at large. We will take an aggressive approach to our journalism. That is, after all, our calling.

We will make this an all-around outstanding publication that is a writer-friendly, well designed and edited.

I can assure you that this will happen within a year. What makes me so certain?

Many of you know that as a former board member I possess a very hard working, detailed-oriented attitude that makes things click. Most of you know that I not only have passion for and commitment to this organization, but also an understanding of the big picture.

So, I eagerly invite you to join this new and exciting team. Together, let’s make the NABJ Journal a publication we can ALL be proud to call OUR own.

Gregory Lee Jr. is deputy high school sports editor at The Washington Post.
In 2001, Herbert Lowe ran unsuccessfully for NABJ president. It came at a time after he had served as an executive board member for six years, but on the heels of NABJ reaching a financial crisis. Two years later, after encouragement from many of his supporters, Lowe ran once again for the association’s top elected post. This time, on Aug. 8, 2003, the Newsday courts reporter became the 15th person in NABJ’s history to ascend to the role of president.

During an interview with Journal staff writer Errin Haines, Lowe outlined his plans for the organization.

**JOURNAL:** What can local chapters do to feel more connected to the national organization?

**LOWE:** Our chapters are going to have to become stronger locally. For NABJ to really get our name out, we have to do things that engage the community. I am too tired of us trying to prove how big time we are. Our rank and file (members) has something to say, and I...
want to make sure they get the chance to say it.

**JOURNAL:** What do you need from members to help you do your job?

**LOWE:** To do their job as journalists every single day, as well as they can, so I can demonstrate what NABJ is advocating for. They need to continue to tell me their struggles. When they advance, they need to let us know so we can use those opportunities to continue to inspire others. We need for those who gain influence to use that influence to help other black journalists. I need them to take advantage of the services we offer and provide input on those services. I need you to continue to pay your dues, please! And don’t talk bad about NABJ. People aren’t going to want to attend your church if you talk badly about it. Talk about how much NABJ has done for you and how much you have done for NABJ.

**JOURNAL:** How will NABJ make sure black journalists are involved in the next big story?

**LOWE:** When we were in college, we aspired to journalism often to cover the big stories. That’s the way to get influence, to become an editor — to demonstrate that you can handle the big story, that you know what to do when the big story happens. For every big story that happens, I want to know which black journalists are working on that story. They don’t have to be the lead reporter, but should play a role in the coverage. I want to figure out how we shine a light on black journalists and the good things and the great journalism that they’re doing. If we can do that and compare that to everybody that’s doing it, we should be able to demonstrate that too few of us are getting the opportunity to do it. We can’t jump on every story, but we know the ones that are coming. We have to make it happen now. We have to get the numbers and keep those numbers current so when we talk to the industry and newsroom leaders we have facts to back up our case.

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**JOURNAL:** Under your administration, how is NABJ working to be proactive, expeditious and responsive when issues such as the Rush Limbaugh situation, the Detroit convention crisis or the Naples Daily News hip-hop column flap arise?

**LOWE:** There are things happening almost every day. We can’t respond to everything, or else that’s all we would do. We are going to be judicious about what we respond to. It’s not an easy thing. News will break, and within 15 minutes members want to know if NABJ is going to respond. To write an e-mail demanding a response takes about 30 seconds. To put out a response that is reasoned, productive, insightful and meaningful takes some time. My mantra is that within 48 hours of something happening, we should have a response or let the membership know why we’re not responding. We have to somehow acknowledge we know that something is happening. And some things just happen on a local level and are going to have to be dealt with by local chapters. They are our eyes and ears locally.

**JOURNAL:** You’ve said that NABJ needs to get away from its dependency on conventions for the bulk of its revenue. What other opportunities are we pursuing to fill our coffers?

**LOWE:** Media Institute programming is an avenue, and we are also exploring new levels of membership. The board approved in October to create three levels of full membership: basic, enhanced and lifetime. We’re not trying to do a layaway program here but we have a lot of people who can afford to pay and would be willing to pay more than $80 if we just asked them. We’re going to be looking to get more money for programming and our general operating costs out of our members. When we talk to major foundations, they’re going to ask how much we are giving up ourselves. When we demonstrate that *The Journal* is coming out on time, that becomes a revenue producer. There’s also Web site ban-
ner advertising. Not everything you do is going to bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars. For the 30th anniversary, we’ve been discussing ideas for premium sponsorship opportunities.

JOURNAL: What changes in our convention programming approach can we expect under your administration?

LOWE: We shouldn’t have any programming that encourages people to leave the business. I want us to be known first and foremost as a journalism organization. The criteria for workshops should be: What is it that’s going to allow a person to be a better journalist on Monday when people get back to work and does this help people advance and gain influence in the industry?

Over the next two years, we aren’t having typical conventions with UNITY in 2004 and NABJ’s 30th anniversary the following year. So a lot of programming has to happen during the course of the year. To help, I’d like to offer Media Institute programming once a month. We’re not positioned to do that right now because we don’t have the funding, but I want the Media Institute to be as well known as the Maynard Institute or Poynter.

JOURNAL: Are you wary of too many pursuits under your administration?

LOWE: I’m very wary. There are some things that we want to do that we’re already excited about that I’m wondering if we should leave to our successors.

Five years from now, I want it to be said that during this administration we relieved ourselves of the perception that we are a one-week-a-year association and became a year-round association. That we once again began fighting for black journalists and shining a light on black journalists. That we celebrated our legacy and made it clear that we are the bellwether organization for journalists of color at UNITY. I want to be able to say that NABJ 30 years later is a stronger, more powerful entity in the industry and that we can look back on those 30 years with pride and be passionate about our next 30 years.

JOURNAL: What is it like to be president? What do you hope to accomplish?

LOWE: Well, winning is certainly better than losing. But I was able to keep my passion and keep my fire and wait my turn...I understand that I’m representing thousands of black journalists and it seems like so many of them are suddenly calling me...I’m still learning. One of the things I learned that became quite clear after the Detroit (convention city debate) is that city officials recognize the importance of NABJ and what the convention means for the potential of that city...

Somebody once told me that NABJ has steadfastly refused to live up to its potential. I want to prove them wrong. We’re not going to be able to do everything, but we’re going to try to make a difference.
IT’S NOT JUST ABOUT CARS...

BELIEVING IN PEOPLE
INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY

EDUCATION

ENVIRONMENT

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When Ronnie Agnew became the first African American to head the newsroom at The Clarion-Ledger in Jackson, Miss. in Fall 2002, he began his search for a person who could help him make changes.

Agnew found his help last March from another African American, Don Hudson. Agnew, who is executive editor of the newspaper, and Hudson, the managing editor, are among the rare duos of black journalists holding the top two newsroom jobs at a major daily newspaper. In Ohio, James N. Crutchfield and Debra Adams Simmons, both African Americans, are publisher and editor, respectively, at the Akron Beacon-Journal.

Agnew has placed other African Americans in high profile jobs at The Clarion-Ledger, which was known as a segregationist newspaper during the 1960s. The newsroom changes included naming

Executive editor Ronnie Agnew, left, and managing editor Don Hudson have reinvigorated the newsroom at The Clarion-Ledger.

Taking on the South
AGNEW, HUDSON A PART OF CHANGING THE FACE OF MISSISSIPPI JOURNALISM

By Norm Parish | Photography by Chris Todd
African Americans Grace Simmons-Fisher as metropolitan editor and Eric Stringfellow as metropolitan columnist. Overall, the newsroom is about 35 percent black, one of the largest percentages of African Americans in a mainstream daily newspaper, Agnew says.

Agnew and Hudson have been involved in other changes that they hope will not only affect the newsroom, but also the entire state of Mississippi.

“I think it says a lot about not only where the industry has come, but where Mississippi has come. I think nationally it is a victory because it shows that newsrooms are ready for this,” Agnew says.

“I think the thing that we have to do is show people that we are about the business of journalism. Yes, we are African-American men but we also are very, very, good journalists. I think that probably overshadows and outweighs anything else.”

In October, Agnew and Hudson were involved in the newspaper’s series titled, “The Changing Face of Jackson,” which was published on four consecutive Sundays. The series explored such issues as politics, race and economic development in Jackson and three other cities with African-American majority populations. The stories also examined how demographics have changed in Jackson; it went from about 56 percent black in 1990 to about 71 percent in 2000. The city’s overall population declined during that same period from 196,637 people to 184,256.

In other changes, Agnew also wants to give the newspaper a facelift. “We are taking a very operational look and a very strategic look at everything that we do,” he says. “We are just trying to find a way for improvements, like maybe a punchier presentation on section fronts. All of those basic things that help you lure readers. And during a time of war, I think we were getting a whole new audience of people who wanted to know what is going on. It is my goal to keep these people.”

Agnew, who was born in poverty in Mississippi’s Lee County and graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1984, says he has a deep affection for Jackson. He worked at the Commonwealth in Greenwood as a reporter before moving to The Sun Herald in Biloxi and later to the Cincinnati Enquirer, where he was promoted to assistant city editor. He became managing editor of the Hattiesburg American and worked in management at Thompson newspapers.

Agnew joined The Clarion-Ledger as managing editor in February 2001, succeeding Shawn McIntosh, who resigned to take a job in Georgia with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

“I think the thing that we have to do is show people that we are about the business of journalism. Yes, we are African-American men but we also are very, very, good journalists. I think that probably overshadows and outweighs anything else.”

Ronnie Agnew
Clarion Ledger Editor

“I had worked for the publisher [Bill Hunsberger] previously at a Gannett newspaper in Hattiesburg, Miss.,” recalls Agnew, 41. “So, I told him I thought the time was right for me to lead this paper. And I just feel blessed that he agreed.”

Hudson, 42, also was reared in the South. Born in Shreveport, La., he graduated from Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe in 1983. Hudson, who had worked as sports reporter at The Clarion-Ledger from 1983-86, has worked in various sports editing jobs at the News-Star in Monroe, the former Arkansas Gazette in Little Rock, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and Orlando Sentinel, where he also served as metropolitan editor. He also worked as managing editor of the Jackson (Tenn.) Sun and later had the same post at the Lansing State (Mich.) Journal before rejoining The Clarion-Ledger.

“I came here because of Ronnie,” Hudson says. “We knew from day one that we were on the same page. . . . We could read one another. That has been refreshing. It usually takes a year to get to know the boss. But here that connection has occurred right away.”

Says Agnew, “I’m never short on ideas and [Hudson] is never short on a way to execute them. If we have anything in common, we believe we ought to have fun.”

Even though he and Agnew are both black, Hudson says, “people have been more receptive than I expected them to be. . . . There were probably some folks who were probably saying, ‘Oh my goodness.’ But we didn’t notice it.”

But Hudson, who holds regular meetings about what works in the newspaper, jokes, “we have some good drag downs and knockouts” over news stories among the newspaper’s editors.

Agnew says, “I am proud of my newsroom for how they have embraced both of us.”

Some news staffers say they like the two editors because both men are “very approachable” and “have an open-door policy,” qualities that were missing from some past newsroom managers.

“Reporters didn’t have much say and were basically told what to say and you did it,” recalls Pamela Berry, an African-American reporter who has worked at the newspaper since 1994.

Now, Berry says, “it is not a paper
that manages down. We are still working long days and doing stories we might not want to do... But it is great to have editors who want to know what I think or how something can be approached. And I can do it without losing my job... Ronnie knows the art of conversation and can really talk with people. He is one of those bosses who stops and talks to you. He is very nice. You want to work hard for him. He listens very well.”

Hudson, she says, has helped boost the careers of other talented journalists. “Don has even helped other reporters get to bigger newspapers in other markets. He doesn’t try to block you.”

The two editors also seem to care about reporters’ personal lives, says Andy Kanengiser, a white reporter who has worked at the newspaper since 1979.

“[Ronnie] talks not just about the stories, but about your family,” says Kanengiser, 52, who has five children. “We have had other managers in the newsroom, but many of them never asked about how your family was doing. [Agnew and Hudson] are always asking how my kids are doing... To me, it is kind of refreshing... It makes me believe that journalism is not their only concern. They seem to care about you as a person.”

Agnew says he believes many Mississippi residents support their leadership as well, especially because of The Clarion-Ledger’s past reputation. The newspaper’s circulation has increased to 100,000 daily (from 97,000) and
100,000 (from 110,000) on Sundays during his tenure as editor, according to Agnew.

He says white Mississippians are as proud as blacks that two African Americans lead the newsroom.

“There may be an occasional phone call from people that the choice of a photograph was made ‘because you are African American,’” Agnew says. “But that has happened to me everywhere I have worked.”

At the same time, Hudson says U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, a Mississippi Republican, alluded negatively to The Clarion-Ledger’s parent company’s [Gannett] hiring practices, which Lott called questionable. Hudson says he isn’t sure whether Lott was specifically trying to criticize Gannett because The Clarion-Ledger’s newsroom is run by two African Americans. Hudson and Agnew say The Clarion-Ledger has a rocky relationship with Lott even though the newspaper has endorsed him.

Hudson also says he is sometimes surprised that race is still such a high profile issue in Mississippi today. “I have been trying to learn the South again,” he says. “People are just flat out open . . . There are some bitter people when it comes to race.”

Hudson says during recent community meetings tied to its series, “The Changing Face of Jackson,” some whites said they “didn’t feel included anymore” in the city, which now has various black officials in the public and the private sectors. The city’s current mayor, Harvey John-
son, is also African American.

Hudson adds, some whites call Johnson “smart and articulate.”

“And that is the one that got me,” Hudson says. “That word ‘articulate’ has always got to come up . . .”

“Like it or not, race is still very much an issue here in some ways,” Agnew says. “But [Mississippi] is not unlike any place I have already lived. Think about what has happened to Jackson during the last 10 years. Just look at the major shift in race in Jackson, just one place in Mississippi.

“This is a city that used to be largely white [and] now is largely black. I think people of color are trying to understand what this change means. For the first time in this city’s history, you have African-American people in charge of just about every form of government. . . .

“Just eight years ago, Harvey Johnson became the first African-American mayor of this city. There is a lot of newness to this thing in terms of African Americans being in power so many places in this market. That is why race is a big deal here. After race, economics would be the biggest topic we would have to tackle. Mississippi is still a very rural and poor state. And African Americans are not represented the way they should be in education, in terms of institutions of higher learning. We don’t have many of our folks going on to school for higher education. Therefore, the economic situation is very, very important. Places like St. Louis and other places can perhaps withstand the loss of industry, but Mississippi has just been devastated, especially in the Mississippi Delta that is largely black.”

Agnew hopes his paper’s reporting on such challenges will help make improvements and bring the newspaper a little recognition. In 1983, The Clarion-Ledger won a Pulitzer Prize for its education reform coverage in the public service division. He wants the newspaper to again achieve similar success.

“Wouldn’t it be great for two African-American men to lead Mississippi’s only statewide newspaper to that [level] of journalistic excellence?” he asks. “That is our goal.”
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The Mis-Education of HBCUs

Newspaper Confiscation at Hampton University Sparks Debate on the Training of Future Journalists

By Ernie Suggs
F
from his office in downtown Memphis, the incident at Hampton University that resulted in the confiscation of the school’s student paper disturbed Otis Sanford.

The managing editor of The Commercial Appeal has spent countless hours on the bucolic Hampton campus mentoring and recruiting students. One of those students was Talia Buford, the embattled Hampton Script editor, who interned at The Commercial Appeal two summers ago.

“To me there are two different things. My perception of black college journalism students is much different than my reaction to what happened in Hampton,” Sanford said. “This incident, I was very disturbed about it. If it speaks to anything, it might speak to perhaps the lack of sophistication and understanding among the administration about the role of the media.”

This incident is not the first to occur at historically black colleges and universities, but it is part of a longstanding problem between university leaders and student newspapers.

How Hampton University, a historically black college in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia, became the center of a journalistic firestorm is a study of contrasts and confusion.

During the school’s annual homecoming week, the university’s administration confiscated the Oct. 22 edition of the student-run newspaper, The Hampton Script, because Buford and her staff refused to run a letter from the acting university president, JoAnn Haysbert, on the front page, as Haysbert had ordered.

The staff published a news story about the health violations at the university’s cafeteria on the front page. However, the letter to the student body from school officials about the situation was placed inside the newspaper.

“I’ve always valued truth. I don’t back down to authority. I’ve always had that in me,” Buford says.

By the time the confiscated paper came out, the staff had agreed to run Haysbert’s letter on the cover in exchange for Hampton forming a task force. All of this was happening while Hampton was in the midst of trying to improve journalism education at the university.

So instead of past situations in which schools took action against student papers in the form of reducing funding or in some cases, ceasing the publication, Hampton school officials and students editors wanted the task force to set guidelines for the practice of journalism on the campus.

After a few meeting sessions, Hampton school officials accepted the proposal submitted by the faculty-student task force. The recommendations were:

- No administrator, faculty member, student or university-affiliated organization will confiscate or halt distribution of the Hampton Script.
- Student journalists on the newspaper staff have the right to a free press.
- Oversight and guidance from faculty advisors with journalistic knowledge are necessary.
- An advisory board should be established and given power to resolve disagreements between editors and advisors.

“I have learned a great deal from this experience in regard of the freedom of the press,” Haysbert wrote in a letter to the task force. “The work that you have completed and the report you have produced can only help to strengthen the great legacy and tradition that are Hampton University’s.”

Earl Caldwell, a visiting professor at Hampton and chairman of the task force, suggests that this is the start of something big.

“The Hampton Task Force will impact other HBCUs,” Caldwell says. “We are trying to start a national program and lift all. It was horrible thing to happen at Hampton, but it is pulling us together.”

This “horrible thing” by school leaders may turn out to be the turning point in the struggles that HBCU journalism programs face. But, many agree that improvement of these programs will need more resources and commitment from media companies as well as better support from school officials.

Ironically, one of the biggest signs towards this improvement was the creation of the Scripps Howard School of Journalism at Hampton in 2002. The Scripps Howard Foundation donated more than $2 million to build a state-of-the-art facility to help better prepare students for the next level.

However, the school had a rocky start as Charlotte Grimes, who was hired to start this new program, resigned after having philosophical issues with school officials on the style of journalism to be taught at the school.

After the October newspaper was seized, the American Society of Newspaper Editors, pulled its financial support from the school for a high school journalism program it sponsored.

“Make no mistake, the reputation and credibility of journalism education at historically black colleges and universities are at stake,” NABJ President Herbert Lowe stated in an open letter to Haysbert. “NABJ’s No. 1 goal is to diversify newsrooms. That quest is undeniably hurt when newsroom recruiters can for any reason ques-
tion whether true journalism is taught at the institutions that produce so many black journalism graduates.”

Caldwell believes that many are missing the bigger picture that lies with the struggles of HBCU programs.

“We are not talking about censorship,” says Caldwell, a former columnist at the New York Daily News. “[The industry] could not wait to take Hampton down. There is something radically wrong with the entire institution of the news media in America. “It is easy to criticize. But at Hampton, the quick fix is to take away the money. They don’t want to deal with solutions, but instead use their positions to kick black schools in the butt.”

The primary problems the industry has yet to deal with are journalism schools are wrought by administrative oversight and the papers and the journalism programs they run have been woefully under-supported and underfunded, critics say.

Caldwell believes one way to jump-start the programs is provide greater expertise on HBCU campuses.

“We need black journalists in the area of a college newspaper to volunteer,” Caldwell says. “The [student] journalists need more than bucks, they need your [black journalists] presence and involvement. It does not take a lot of money. There is equipment at Alcorn State, but no one to teach. We need to give the students more support.”

Today, not one of the 105 black colleges had daily papers and only Howard University, Florida A&M and Southern University publish more than once a week.

Most publish monthly, although more are making a strong presence on the Web.

Also, only seven of the 105 schools boast journalism programs that are accredited.

But according to a survey, conducted in 1999 by Jeffery Maurice Wilson of the Henry W. Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication at the University of Georgia, many journalism programs at HBCUs have been able to prepare their black graduates for the job market at the same rate as white schools.

Wilson found that despite the lack of resources, compared to their white counterparts, black colleges produced one-third of the black journalism graduates in 1997-98 of the 451 schools compiled in this study. Only 28 of those 451 schools were HBCUs.

“Our graduates are everywhere, and in positions to hire people,” says Phillip Dixon, chairman of the Howard University journalism department.

“And there has been enough achievement at black colleges that what happened at Hampton can’t undo all of that achievement.”

Dixon doesn’t need to see the stats. He lives them. At Howard, he is responsible for training and putting a good number of young black journalists into the market.

In conversations with parents and potential students, he says, he often has to convince them that Howard is worth it, as opposed to a bigger, more prestigious white school.

“I tell them when you go to those other places, you are going to see that they have a lot of things we don’t have. We can’t compete in terms of physical things,” Dixon says. "But we can get their minds right and their hearts right. We will treat each of them like we expect them to do it well. We are going to give you every opportunity because we believe in you.”

Dixon, who came to Howard two years ago after working at The Philadelphia Inquirer as managing editor, has been on both sides: As someone now preparing students for the workforce and as someone looking to hire young reporters.

He says that from his experience as a recruiter, black college students were no different from white college students in terms of talent. So he doubts that the Hampton incident will taint how HBCU students are perceived.

“In terms of preparation, I was most impressed by people who had to make a lot out of a little,” Dixon says. “I remember meeting some students at Norfolk State. I saw them work late into the night. Everybody doing everything. Just hustling. That is what I remember.”

Sanford of The Commercial Appeal said his paper has been successfully recruiting at HBCUs for years and plans to continue the paper’s efforts to nab black students — despite what happened at Hampton.

“We have had students from Hampton, Southern University, Tennessee State and for the most part, they have all done extremely well. Percentage-wise, they have done as good or better than any other intern,” Sanford says. “I would hope that black colleges would not get a black eye because of this.”

Franz Martin, manager of employee relations at the Daily News in New York, said that although her paper has not had a lot of HBCU-trained interns, it has not been for lack of effort on the paper’s part or a bias.

“It doesn’t matter with us where they go to school. We have a criteria that goes out to everyone,” Martin said. “Everybody has to follow the same criteria, which is basically to have some experience and to be a junior or senior.”

Buford says she doesn’t think the reputation of Hampton or HBCUs should suffer over the incident.

“This is definitely a black mark on the administration, but for the students I think that it’s great,” Buford says. “This is proof that we are learning something. It’s proof that we are trying to apply the things that we are learning.”

ACCREDITED

Only seven of 105 HBCUs are accredited by the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications:

- Florida A&M
- Grambling State
- Hampton University
- Howard University
- Jackson State
- Southern University of Baton Rouge
- Norfolk State University

Note: Alcorn State, North Carolina A&T, Savannah State and Winston State are seeking accreditation.
‘Committed to Freedom of the Press’
Buford Relies on Principles, Finesse Under Pressure

By C. Kalimah Redd

It was 6:45 a.m. on Oct. 22 when Talia Buford walked into the Hampton University student newspaper office and waited.

For the past two days Buford, the editor of the Hampton Script, had been locked in a battle with the administration over the paper’s decision to publish a memo about recent cafeteria health code violations on page three, rather than the front-page as the acting president had requested.

During the first two days of discussions between Buford and the school, Hampton Script copy editor Erin Walsh said she and the staff were worried that Buford would be kicked out of school.

“Hampton University is not big on the press knowing negative things are going on in the school and she had contacted the press the night she found out they were going to take the paper,” Walsh said. “We thought they were going to discipline her for that. We were all frightened for Talia, but we were all behind her 100 percent.”

After a series of negotiations, Buford and her staff agreed to reprint the paper with the memo on the front page, along with a large disclaimer, in exchange for the formation of a task force to discuss the paper’s future.

Mark Goodman is the executive director of the Student Press Law Center, a non-profit advocacy group for student newspapers, which Buford had kept in touch with throughout the incident. Goodman says Buford relied on her principles to finesse a better situation for the program in an intensely pressure-filled situation.

“Her belief was that [the paper’s] commitment was to fairness and independence, and not appearing to be a propaganda tool for the administration of the university. That’s what she believed her readers deserved,” Goodman says. “I just think in her situation that’s a really hard thing to do.”

Life since the incident has changed for Buford. People now recognize her when she walks through campus. The newspaper has also gained a new dedicated following of readers.

In a way, Buford says the incident invigorated the student body.

“We didn’t understand how much power we have and we didn’t exercise it enough,” she says. “By the Hampton Script standing up for what they believe in and not letting the school push us around, that inspired a lot of students.”

For certain the experience has made the bond between her and her staff much stronger.

“We are such a family,” said Walsh, 20, a junior. “We had each other to lean on. That’s how we were able to get through this.”

So far, Buford has received one internship offer and hopes more will trickle in. The experience has inspired her to continue to grow in the field and make the Hampton Script the best student newspaper it can be.

“Now Hampton has a chance to step up and really do something substantial,” she says. “We have been doing big things, and now it is the time for us to blow up and say we are committed to journalism, we are committed to freedom of the press, and we are committed to free speech.”

By C. Kalimah Redd

Talia Buford

National Association of Black Journalists • www.nabj.org
Over half of HBCUs have a campus newspaper that reaches the student body regularly. Also many have radio and/or television broadcasts.

<table>
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The Price of True Independence

Newsroom Staffs Often at Mercy of Administration

By Keith T. Reed

Just how free is the press at historically black colleges? It is perhaps the most important question raised after last year's controversial confiscation of copies of Hampton University's student newspaper.

The Hampton incident alludes to a problem facing some black college papers. While nearly all student newspapers depend on funding from their campuses, many black student papers have a fractious relationship with administrators who either don’t understand their role as training grounds or who also resent journalism's historically unfair portrayals of African Americans. When tensions flare between the sides, the end result is often that student journalists suffer.

“African Americans have gotten a raw deal from the press,” says Bruce dePyslser, an assistant professor at North Carolina Central University in Durham and adviser for the school paper, the Campus Echo.

“There’s a sense of we don’t want our own press to be doing the same thing to us, but to me the real burning issue is one of resources. You have to have resources to do a decent paper, and it’s not cheap.”

There’s one simple answer to both the funding and autonomy problems that black campus newspapers face, says Lawrence Kaggwa, a journalism professor at Howard University in Washington.

“Go independent,” says Kaggwa, who founded the District Chronicles, a weekly, student-run, independent newspaper, in 2001.

“You set the rules because you are essentially starting it and paying for it. Those kids will get a better education that is based on the First Amendment principles and free market principles.”

Among black college newspapers, Kaggwa’s is largely thought to be the only independent. Its offices are on Howard’s campus and most of the reporters and editors are students. But the paper gets no funding from Howard. Instead, it supports itself by selling ad space, with a student sales team trained by professionals from the Washington Times every year.

District Chronicles covers Washington communities outside of Howard’s campus, distinguishing itself from the university-funded

### MEDIA PRESENCE

Over half of HBCUs have a campus newspaper that reaches the student body regularly. Also many have radio and/or television broadcasts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Newspaper Name</th>
<th>Staff size</th>
<th>Publication schedule</th>
<th>Independence</th>
<th>Radio/TV</th>
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<tr>
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<td>The Steer</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>None</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Radio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>The Arkansawyer</td>
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<td>Monthly</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Radio/TV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2-6</td>
<td>Bi-Weekly</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>TV</td>
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<tr>
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<td>The Hawks</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Uision</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
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<td>The Virginia Statesman</td>
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<td>The Voorhees Vista</td>
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<td>Monthly</td>
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<td>University Mirror</td>
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<td>TV</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>The News Argus</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Radio</td>
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<td>Xavier Herald</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Hilltop, the official student paper. It was launched with $10,000 in donations, which Kaggwa solicited from Howard J-school alumni, and drew another $10,000 in ad revenues in its first 12 months.

Sales are projected to hit $100,000 in 2003, allowing the paper to pay all its student staffers—and, Kaggwa says, better emulate the real-life situations that journalists of any race face after college.

But District Chronicles' success also points to how elusive the concept of independent publishing is for most students at historically black colleges.

Most black colleges don't have student populations large enough to make their papers attractive to advertisers, and many also struggle to find cash for endowments and capital improvements, leaving their papers distant and under-funded priorities.

"Of course, [being independent] would be the ideal situation," says Kathleen Hellen, a journalism professor at historically black Coppin State College in Baltimore. Coppin's student newspaper has published only sporadically in the last three years, she says.

In her attempts to revive the paper, she wrote a proposal that would move control of the paper from Coppin's student life division to the school's English department. The purpose was not to give administrators final say over content, but to ensure that students wrote stories as part of their classwork, and that the paper would always be adequately funded.

"When you're dealing with a campus that has been historically under-funded, to me [an independent paper] is a dream, but it's not a reality yet," she says.

Still, some black schools are funding campus papers while leaving editorial decisions up to the students.

North Carolina Central's Campus Echo gets 85 percent of its funding from student fees, but dePyssler says administrators never try to interfere with the paper's content.

"I let them know that the more they get involved, the more they increase their own liability," he said.

"Legally, if they show that they're trying to influence the content, then they can be held liable for the content. By saying it's the student publication the university can wash their hands of it."

Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., created a department of student media three years ago to manage the campus newspaper, the Southern Digest, which gets between 85 percent and 90 percent of its budget from student fees.

Derick Hackett, Southern's director of student media, conceding that the funding link means the paper is not totally autonomous, but insisted the university's administrators keep their hands off the bi-weekly Digest's content.

The student media department also helped raise the Digest's quality, he said, by the paper creating a new stylebook that set editorial standards—an imperative after the paper published semi-nude photos of underaged girls from a concert several years ago.

"Every newspaper has standards and style. I doubt that the [Boston] Globe would print photos like that," Hackett says.

Back at Howard, Kaggwa says he realizes that limited campus resources affect many student newspapers' fortunes.

But he said that is even more reason for students to attempt to venture out on their own.

Unfortunately, he says, an even larger problem has been missed.

"I can't see the ASNE meeting their goals of newsroom parity using the training facilities we have at black colleges, which are, at best, weeklies," Kaggwa says while referring to the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

"You can't seriously expect black students to graduate from a university that can barely put out a paper to then go and do well at a large daily. Many students at white colleges end up starting their own publications. More of us on black campuses should be trying the same."

"There's a sense of we don't want our own press to be doing the same thing to us, but to me the real burning issue is one of resources. You have to have resources to do a decent paper, and it's not cheap."

"Bruce dePyssler
North Carolina Central University"

Tiffany Black, Marcus Braziel, Joy Buchanan, Chris Jones, Gregory Lee Jr. and Miesha Lowery contributed to the research compiled for this special report. Brian Henderson created the graphics.
MY HBCU DILEMMA
You Have to Fight, Even if You Don’t Win

By Keith T. Reed

I t was December 1999, and Dr. Robert Cataliotti was tossing me out of his office.

A white New Yorker who dedicated his professional life to teaching black literature at historically black Coppin State College in Baltimore, Cataliotti was also faculty adviser for the student newspaper, The Courier. I was editor-in-chief.

The Courier was (it hasn’t published since I graduated in 1999) a fitting, but sad example of what many black college student newspapers were and still are: poorly-funded, largely neglected and mostly ignored by students and administration alike.

Cataliotti wanted me out of his sight after our mutual frustration over the endless obstacles preventing us from putting out a good paper boiled over into an argument.

Far from an independent paper, a committee of administrators handpicked our editor. Publishing monthly was a greater concern than was producing stories that resembled good journalism. On a budget of less than $10,000, no student writers were paid. Recruiting editing or sales staffs was a laughable prospect.

The final indignity came when I had to catch a bus in the rain across Baltimore and beg our rival Morgan State University Spokesman’s staff for the use of their computers to put out Coppin’s paper because our machines were broken. Disgusted, I broke Cataliotti’s cardinal rule, sending the paper to the printer before he could do a final proof.

A heated confrontation ensued.

I asked him to resign; he asked me to relieve my 6-foot-plus, rail thin behind from his space. The paper would come out twice more before I graduated. It died shortly thereafter.

I called Cataliotti recently and asked him to recall our confrontation and what he thought about the state of black college newspapers today. As long as we had been silent about our disagreement, we found much common ground in that call.

“You know how controlling HBCU administrators could be,” he said, referencing his insistence on seeing the paper beforehand.

“For me as the advisor to say I didn’t see the paper would not have been good,” he said.

He said he had no personal concern about the editorial content, but risking the paper publishing without a thorough proofreading would have been an embarrassment before - you guessed it - the same administrators who cared enough to give The Courier a shallow budget and to get our computers fixed.

Cataliotti had an understandable point for an English professor with a good reputation to protect.

But I can’t help but think that a few more dollars and more concern for the development of black student journalists would have saved us both heartache.

I’d like to think that my experiences happened in a vacuum, the product of being at a small school with precious few resources to spare.

But I’m willing to bet that there is another black student editor, at this very moment, leaving an adviser’s office dejected.
Grads Say Censorship Not Just Limited to Hampton

By C. Kalimah Redd

The Hampton University administration’s confiscation of the student newspaper last fall sparked a flurry of responses among journalists across the country, especially from those who graduated from historically black colleges and universities.

Reactions ranged from disappointment to shock. But many black journalists who are HBCU graduates say they weren’t surprised about the school’s actions, having experienced similar pressures while working at their own student-run newspaper.

David Gibson, night editor of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and a 1976 graduate of Hampton University, says, “It was just a power struggle that was wrong and stupid.”

“I was kind of stunned,” says Rashida Rawls, who graduated from Spelman College in May and works as a copy/design editor at the Macon Telegraph in Georgia.

Many HBCU graduates cite the lack of independence of newspapers on black college campuses as a major issue. Dependent on the school financially, journalists says they constantly butted heads with university officials over the content of the paper.

“You are operating under such restriction that if you write a bad story, if you write something controversial, you have the feeling that there goes your funding,” says Mitchell Vantrease, a news reporter at the Daily News-Sun in Sun City, Ariz., and a 2000 graduate of Tennessee State University in Nashville.

Vantrease says TSU’s The Meter never lost funding, but experience some scares. In one situation, the paper published a story that was critical of the president’s performance. “We got blasted,” he says. “But they had to understand we were just doing our jobs.”

Florida A&M University alum Michael Lee says he experienced similar situations working at The Famuan. Lee, who covers the NBA’s Atlanta Hawks for the AJC, says the school frequently threatened to pull the paper’s funding over stories and often reduced its budget.

“As long as your bread is buttered by the university, this is bound to happen because most people don’t understand the First Amendment and what it really means,” Lee says.

Kimothy Brown says while attending Howard University in Washington, the administration frequently avoided getting student input on decisions and was indifferent about maintaining high standards when alumni and parents were not around.

“They’d just try to make themselves look good,” says Brown, who graduated in 2000.

The highlight footage producer at ESPN says he worries that the Hampton incident will heighten an already existing perception that education at a black college is second rate.

However some alumni believe that attending an HBCU journalism program was more beneficial than going to a majority-attended school.

Tyriney Sims, a sports reporter and producer at Bay News 9 in Tampa, calls her four years at Jackson State University in Mississippi, the best years of her life. Attending college at a white university during the summer was not the same. “I didn’t think the professors cared about the black students,” she says.

Gibson says HBCUs serve a distinct purpose in the lives of students.

“I think it’s more than about preparing them academically,” he says. “It’s about preparing them culturally, socially and as an individual in a generally nurturing and challenging environment.”

Many journalists say they don’t believe censorship is an issue exclusive to black colleges.

Gibson, like other journalists, commends the efforts of the students to resist Hampton’s mandate.

“Tyriney and I are proud of the students for holding their ground. I would’ve done the same thing,” Lee says.
The events at The Hampton Script last fall—in which the paper’s homecoming issue was held because of an administrative conflict over an editorial decision by the newspaper’s staff—is evidence that money and resources mean nothing when a school’s governing body acts in its own best interest, and not that of journalism, student journalists say.

“It was kind of like I was running into a brick wall,” says Talia Buford, the Script editor who watched her newspapers being hauled away.

“That coupled with the fact they were taking our newspapers. Who takes newspapers? They were literally confiscating our voice. Our freedom of speech. Our free press.”

However, Earl Caldwell, a visiting professor at Hampton University, understood the administration’s stand against publishing the newspaper because they exercised their rights as well.

“I never defend anyone for confiscating papers,” Caldwell says. “What has to be recognized is the publisher wanted to exercise publisher’s rights. I don’t care what paper is it. The university is the publisher whether you like it or not.”

In 2000, the Scripps Howard Foundation announced it would make a financial contribution to Hampton’s journalism program. Later, a $10 million commitment was made to build the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications, establish endowed scholarships and a chair, provide visiting professionals and program support, and purchase technology and equipment necessary for the training of journalists for the future.

Now, the building has been built, scholarships have been issued and professionals are in place.

But even with the Hampton-Scripps union in place, some say, there is still a disconnect between leadership and student journalists.

And problem isn’t only at Hampton.

At many HBCUs, academic experts say, issues like this can be largely traced to two factors that also affect mainstream institutions.

First, journalism faculty are frequently recruited based on their academic, not professional, background. It’s a common occurrence at many academic institutions, but a mistake when applied to journalism, a practical field in an academic environment, says Reginald Owens, an associate professor of journalism at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston.

Owens—whose own background includes experience in newspapers, public relations and as an educator at both black and mainstream institutions—authored a 1998 study analyzing the state of the black student press after recognizing its significant contribution to the ranks of professional journalism.

Second, among other factors examined in a 45-question survey that was the basis for the project was governance, advice and control.

Of the 100 HBCU surveys received over a six-month period, 61 had student advisors. Owens also noted that HBCUs have a tendency to overemphasize academia as a desirable trait when looking for faculty, as terminal degrees lend to the HBCUs much-needed image of credibility. The result is an imbalance between those able to teach by theory and those able to teach by practice, he says.

When acting Hampton president Dr. JoAnn Haysbert learned that the Hampton Script staff did not follow through with administration wishes, she then decided to confiscate the newspapers in an attempt to control the student press on campus.

“She said that she couldn’t control what was on Channel 10 or the Daily Press but that she would use the Hampton venue to get the information out,” Buford recalls.

“Black schools operate under a lot of political duress,” Owens says. “Black people, period—and in leadership positions—don’t trust the press. This filters down into the schools, and what ends up happening is that we clam up. That hurts student journalism because it creates a set of people who don’t understand how to use the press to get what they need.”

But Caldwell believes there is a solution to helping resolve these tensions.

“There is no question a lot of administrators who don’t have a concept or idea of free press and are uncomfortable,” Caldwell says.

“We should have seminars for them. We can’t change things that are on campus. Black people need to be involved in building the alternative.”

C. Kalimah Redd contributed to this report.
HBCU Student Journalists Are Feeling the Heat

By Pearl Stewart

Times are tough for student newspapers at historically black colleges and universities. Between financial crises and administrative interference, HBCU student journalists are catching hell.

The highly publicized confiscation of papers at Hampton University may have been the most egregious example of heavy-handed censorship at an HBCU in recent years, but it was by no means the only serious incident.

In November, Fred Gainous, the beleaguered president of Florida A&M University (FAMU), demanded that journalists leave a lunch meeting where he was discussing the school's financial crisis.

In the same month, the state withheld Gainous' paycheck and the checks of 18 other FAMU administrators until they submitted overdue fiscal statements.

So, the president’s comments on the situation were newsworthy. A student reporter who attended the meeting refused to budge and wrote a front-page story about the meeting for the school paper. Gainous was not pleased.

In a compromise, the letter appeared on the front page, and the school set up a task force to create new policies for the newspaper. But the brief period of impasse was a turning point, not only for Hampton but also for other HBCUs where student newspapers have been controlled by administrators for years. Buford and her staff feared during the entire ordeal that they would be “out by 5”—meaning they would be told to pack up and leave by 5 p.m.

“That’s an old saying here at Hampton because it has happened in the past,” Buford says.

The October stand against the administration represented a major step for Hampton students. Like the FAMU reporter who stayed in the meeting, the Hampton students overcame their fear of reprisal and stuck to their principles.

In a compromise, the letter appeared on the front page, and the school set up a task force to create new policies for the newspaper. But the brief period of impasse was a turning point, not only for Hampton but also for other HBCUs where student newspapers have been controlled by administrators for years. Buford and her staff feared during the entire ordeal that they would be “out by 5”—meaning they would be told to pack up and leave by 5 p.m.

“Whenever we started to write something that might be controversial, we would stop and ask, ‘Will this get me out by 5?’” So we practiced self-censorship a lot."

The October stand against the administration represented a major step for Hampton students. Like the FAMU reporter who stayed in the meeting, the Hampton students overcame their fear of reprisal and stuck to their principles.

But these disputes are hard on students who are trying to attend classes, maintain their GPAs and work for school papers with limited finances. The student newspaper at Clark Atlanta University, which has the largest journalism program among HBCUs, recently stopped publishing because of a lack of funds.

While students complain about unsanitary conditions, overcrowded dorms, late financial aid checks and a host of other problems, the campus newspapers contain only “the good news,” because the students fear reprisals. In some cases, the students never even learn how to do in-depth reporting.

Hampton’s president-on-leave, William Harvey, reportedly said last year that he didn’t want “muckraking” journalism taught on his campus. Implicit in that message: Muckrake, and you’ll be “out by 5.”

That message has also been sent to journalists at Morgan State University in Baltimore and St. Augustine’s College in Raleigh, where student papers have been confiscated in recent years, and at Tennessee State in Nashville, where a newspaper adviser was told to keep “negative” articles out of the paper—all at a time when the lack of diversity remains a huge problem in America’s newsrooms. If journalism students at HBCUs are forbidden to ruffle feathers, they aren’t likely to become professional journalists. And if they do, they may end up with the gardening beat because they won’t know how to write hard news.

Similar attacks on the student press have occurred at predominantly white institutions, but with noticeably different results.

In 2001 administrators at Governors State University in Illinois halted publication of an issue of the student newspaper, The Innovator, because they disagreed with an article that criticized the university. The stu-
Students immediately filed a lawsuit. According to the Student Press Law Center (SPLC), a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit handed down a decision in April that offered strong support for college press freedom.

And a year ago, the dean of the Harvard Business School and other administrators gave a verbal warning to the editor of the Harvard Business School (Harbus) for publishing a cartoon, which they said violated a community standards code.

The outcry was so strong that the dean, Kim B. Clark, issued a public apology, reaffirming the administration’s commitment to “freedom of speech and the independence of the Harbus.” By contrast, Hampton’s Haysbert was so unapologetic in the face of public outrage that the American Society of Newspaper Editors, citing her lack of “contrition or understanding,” pulled funding from Hampton for a training program.

The students at Governors State and Harvard Business School took their cases to court and to the media. They didn’t form a task force to talk it over.

Mark Goodman, director of the SPLC, recommends that students at private colleges, which are not covered by the First Amendment as public institutions are, “make the conflict as public as they possibly can because negative publicity is the best persuader.”

At Hampton, once the task force was formed, its leaders asked members not to talk to the media during the discussions, thereby removing the students’ most powerful weapon, public opinion.

Gradually, however, HBCU students are standing up for press freedom on their campuses. At Tennessee State, for example, the administration backed down after stories appeared in the local newspaper.

At FAMU, a scorching editorial criticized the president for attempting to kick the reporter out of the meeting. And at Hampton, although there isn’t likely to be an apology, there will be change. But more struggles lie ahead.

Alumni, faculty and NABJ members must not allow students to fight their battles alone.
Importance of Diversity Should Begin in School

By April Bethea

Nearly two and a half years ago, I experienced what I still call a bit of a culture shock. Just the week before I had attended my first NABJ convention and had wrapped up an internship at *The News & Observer* in Raleigh.

I remember being excited heading back to campus because I had just spent the last 12 weeks working alongside others who not only shared my drive and intensity for the news, but in many instances also looked like me.

But as I settled into my news-writing course and watched my fellow classmates walk in, something dawned on me: I was the only black student in the room.

In an instant, I felt cheated.

One of the things that attracted me to the University of North Carolina (UNC) was the number of resources for minority students. However, I don’t think I ever really took the time to consider the complexities of being a black student in one of the nation’s top journalism programs.

The number of black students majoring in journalism and mass communication has grown steadily on campuses during recent years.

But non-historically black college and universities or Hispanic serving institutions awarded only 6.6 percent of the degrees granted to black undergraduates in the 2000-01 academic year, according to the 2002 Annual Survey of Journalism & Mass Communication Enrollments from the University of Georgia (UGA).

Journalism and mass communication is the second most popular major at UNC. However, I have been the only minority in nearly half of the courses that I have taken in the school.

Being able to say that you have a degree from UNC, Northwestern University or any other top journalism schools can carry some weight among recruiters and peers who are aware of the caliber of these programs.

Still, I can no longer count on my hands the number of times I have heard classmates grumble that the reason they cannot land an internship was because they were given to minorities.

Still, I can no longer count on my hands the number of times I have heard classmates grumble that the reason they cannot land an internship was because they were given to minorities.

Surveys from UGA have also shown that black journalism students have a greater chance of graduating from HBCUs versus non-HBCU campuses.

Although finding ways to counteract these trends is not all that simple, there are some steps that can be taken.

The establishment of NABJ chapters on campuses and the fostering of relationships with area journalists can help to bring attention to the importance that diversity plays in the industry and provide a comfort zone for minority students.

Efforts also should be taken to boost the presence of blacks on campus media staffs. Far too often students turn away from these outlets because of past conflicts between student newspapers and campus minority groups or fears of being caught in a “cliquish” newsroom. This not only robs students of hands-on experience, but also provides a disservice to both the newspaper and readers because of the lack of diversity among those producing the news.

These and other efforts can go a long way in making sure that students graduate feeling more confident in their roles as journalists and not perceive themselves as just a brown face in the crowd.

Again, it will not be an easy or quick task. But these are steps worth taking nonetheless.
chapter spotlight

Out West, SDABJ Becoming a ‘Sparkling Jewel’

By Jerry McCormick

Can do.
That seems to be the mantra of the San Diego Association of Black Journalists (SDABJ). Now entering its fourth year as an organization, the group has pulled together and accomplished what some said could not be done.

SDABJ in its first year—with little money in its bank account—produced a recruitment video and held a student workshop and community access seminar. Both events were a hit. As a result of its hard work and achievement, SDABJ was named Chapter of the Year for Region X in 2001 and named this past summer as NABJ’s Chapter of the Year.

“San Diego is emblematic of how well chapters can succeed if they put their energy and talents toward success-oriented strategies rather than simply being a social outlet,” says Lynne Varner, former Region X director. “The untold secret about San Diego is that unlike most other chapters, they started with very little money or membership. There were no grants from NABJ or influx of membership from another chapter. Everything they have, they earned.”

The group, which started with less than 10 members in 2000, has expanded to nearly 40 members.

Last year the chapter hosted its first major function, San Diego Flavor. The event, held in a lower-income section of San Diego, served as a kick-off event for Super Bowl XXXVII. The party, which featured multi-ethnic food and music, boasted a celebrity guest list that included ESPN’s Stuart Scott, television personality Ananda Lewis and actress Monica Calhoun. It attracted nearly 400 people to Market Creek Plaza, an area that is undergoing an urban renaissance.

“The membership of SDABJ is a small body, but a strong one willing to put in the extra time and effort to make things happen,” says chapter president Denise T. Ward. “Our mission statement is ‘Bridging the Gap Between African Americans and the Media’ and this group makes sure we do that and more.”

The “more” in 2003 included hosting a media access seminar titled “How to Get Your Story Told,” and awarding five $1,000 scholarships to rising young journalists in San Diego.

For founding member Kelly Williams, SDABJ is steady becoming a sparkling jewel in NABJ’s crown.

“When I returned to my native San Diego four years ago and learned the city had no chapter, I was determined to be a part of changing that. Our challenge is to create an environment that offers journalists professional and personal contacts, learning opportunities and old-fashioned fellowship so that they are knocking on SDABJ’s door, eager to become new contributing members.”

And increasing membership is one of Ward’s objectives.

“One of my primary goals as president was to recapture what this organization was when a group of determined journalists and public relations professionals started it more than three years ago. Initial membership numbers were promising, but that number has since faded,” Ward says. “I’m determined to reclaim those members who have fallen to the wayside and add new members to make this group even stronger.”
NABJ's student members are the future leaders of this great organization and I am pleased and honored to represent their voices.

Since August I have been working to meet the demands and needs of student members by putting forth ideas and suggestions to provide better communication, more convention programming, stronger student chapters and more accountability.

To enhance communication I am working with regional student representatives and student chapter presidents to design a quarterly newsletter that will feature articles written by student members which address issues faced by aspiring journalists of color. The newsletter is being laid out and designed by Region VI Student Representative Brian Henderson of Ohio University and we are looking to have it out to students by the spring.

The newsletter will also have reports from myself and the 10 regional student representatives concerning the student membership's future direction, and helpful tips for student chapters. Any NABJ member may contribute to the publication.

Furthermore, the regional student representatives have been given their own e-mail group located at Yahoo! Groups, so they can connect directly to the student members within their area. I have assigned the regional representatives the task of updating student chapter information in their areas, to help start new student chapters, to submit proposals for upcoming conventions to otherwise give direction, guidance and support as needed.

Also, the regional representatives are to get quarterly reports from their student chapter presidents, which I will present at the board of directors meetings. This will help with chapter accountability and also to let the NABJ national office keep track of student chapter activities.

Look out continually for vast improvements to the student services section on the NABJ Web site, www.nabj.org. Check back often for updated student chapter information, a wider selection of internships and scholarships – along with the all-important deadlines – and helpful ideas for seminars and fund raising ideas for student chapters.

In addition, there will be a section that will showcase individuals and chapters within the organization. Plus, on the Web site there will be detailed information on how to start a chapter and an updated chapter handbook that will give chapters the necessary tools to be a solid NABJ chapter.

In other news, I want to congratulate Michael Blake from Northwestern University for being named the student representative on the NABJ Sports Task Force and Efe Osagie from Rutgers University for becoming the new student representative for the NABJ Media Monitoring Committee.

It is my hope that every NABJ committee or task force will have an active student member. Again, we are NABJ's future leaders. No better time than now to starting learning the ropes.

Well, there are many more exciting things that the regional student representatives and myself are working on to make NABJ better for professional, associate and student members. I pledge to keep students abreast of anything new via e-mail and phone calls.

But before I go, I encourage you to be active within the organization and to volunteer in your region alongside your local professional and student chapter, your regional student representative and your NABJ regional director.

Until the next time, be blessed and stay positive.

Caleb Wilkerson is a graduate student studying media management and journalism at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Contact him at calebwilkerson@hotmail.com.
I have seen how teamwork within NABJ and its local chapters can make a difference and expect that associates will continue to help support our local chapters.

and gain influence in the industry, while ensuring NABJ is relevant, delivers on promised services and increases its overall membership.

My primary goals include:

1. Creating a cohesive relationship among associate, full and student members.
2. Working with the board and national staff to ensure that our regional and national programming offer training and development for associate members.
3. Recruiting at least one journalism educator from each historically black college and university as a NABJ member, while, of course, working to do the same at mainstream schools.
4. Drawing attention to academic job openings, including those for deans and department chairs - and then pressing administrators doing the hiring to have at least one black applicant among the finalists for each position.

While further working to add new associate members, I also intend to help the national office maintain our database, and foster communication between associates and the board.

Look soon for a new page on the NABJ Web site created specifically for associates. (Send me your ideas on what you would like to see on this page.) I also want us to have our own listserv so that associates can communicate directly on issues, tactics and best practices. So make sure the national office has your correct e-mail address.

I am confident that working together we will achieve success in each of these endeavors. I have seen how teamwork within NABJ and its local chapters can make a difference and expect that associates will continue to help support our local chapters.

In tune with NABJ’s mission, let us all use our communications skills, background and resourcefulness to accomplish these goals and continue being an asset to the organization.

I look forward to serving NABJ in this capacity and welcome any thoughts, opinions and comments.

Remember, we’re all in this, together!

Angela McClendon is a communications specialist with the San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau. Contact her at angelam@sanantoniovisit.com.
Sports Writer Gets Into Pro Game of Journalism

By Cortney L. Hill

Sherlon Christie combined his love of sports with writing after failing to make the cut for his high school basketball team.

“I loved basketball so much, I had dreams of one day playing for the NBA,” says Christie. “But when I didn’t make the team in high school, I decided I could write about the kids who did.”

Christie, 24, is one of nine sports reporters at the Schenectady Daily Gazette.

“My opportunity to cover the pro game of journalism is what I worked toward the past four years,” he says.

Christie discovered his knack for sports writing while at Brockton High School in Brockton, Mass. When he found himself winning writing contests, he figured he was on to something.

While attending Brockton High, he participated in a University of Massachusetts/Boston high school journalism program where he spent a week working with professional reporters, editors, photographers and designers. After graduating from high school in 1997, the Kingston, Jamaica, native enrolled in Northeastern.

Majoring in journalism, Christie placed his desire to play basketball on the back burner and decided to pursue writing.

“I wrote for the campus newspaper [the Northeastern News] for two years, then I began working at The Boston Globe through their co-op program, which turned into a part-time job for me.”

While at the Globe, Christie covered high school basketball, football, baseball and softball.

“I eventually had to quit the campus newspaper because it was beginning to be too much,” Christie recalls. “But being at the Globe was quite an experience for me. I met some really great people, and I learned so much.”

He also interned at the Dallas Morning News as part of the Sports Journalism Institute, which annually offers a crash course in sports journalism at The Associated Press Sports Editors convention.

“The paper was as big as the Globe,” he says. “But it was quite a culture shock for me. I had never been down south before. It was hazy and hot, and it maybe rained twice while I was there.”

But the Morning News would expose Christie to covering different events, such as rodeos, for the first time.

“It gave me other things to do besides cover basketball and football. But it was different, and I had a good time doing it,” he says.

In a perfect world, he says he would be his own media conglomerate.

“I’d be covering an NBA team for a major newspaper, doing television and radio stints, and writing for the Internet,” he says. “I want to touch all media outlets.”

But until then, Christie will continue pursuing sports writing, with hopes of graduating from covering high school sports to college or professional sports.

“I’m looking for an opportunity to advance in a newspaper where I can break through that glass ceiling,” Christie says. “I want to one day be like [Globe writer] Bob Ryan and say, ‘Yeah, I’ve covered 20 NBA Finals in my lifetime.’”

Christie has advice to other young reporters wanting to break in to the biz. “Don’t come into it because of the money,” he says. “And be realistic. Don’t live above your means. Know how to manage your money.”

Christie also says not to look at work as just a job. “You have to enjoy what you do,” he adds. “Because no matter how much you make, in the end, how you feel about what you do is what really matters.”

Courtney L. Hill is the health and human services reporter for the Salisbury Post in N.C.
talkin’ tech

There’s More to Google Than Meets the Eye

By Michelle Johnson

How many times a day do you hit google.com? And what do you do once you get there? Type in a couple of keywords and hit the search button, right? Well, if that’s the extent of your interaction with Google, you’re missing a lot.

While it may not be apparent from the sparse-looking homepage, there’s more to Google than meets the eye. But let’s start with the obvious.

There are five tabs on the Google homepage. The first one is labeled “Web,” which allows you to search billions of Web pages. You may know that you can enclose a term in quotes (Example: “superior court”) and Google will search for that exact phrase.

But did you know that you can type in someone’s name and an area code or ZIP code and Google will spit back a phone number and address if it’s a listed number? (Example: Bill Jones 617)

It works in the reverse, too. Type in a phone number and get back a name and address. (Tip: leave out the hyphens.) The name and number will be linked to a Yahoo! Map and Mapquest, too. Or, just type in a street address along with the city and state and Google will offer to call up a map.

If you’re searching for information about multiple places, using “OR” can be a time saver. Example: crime Chicago OR Boston will search for both cities. (Note that OR is capitalized.)

Google also recognizes something called “advanced operators.” One that I use frequently is the “site” operator, which searches within a single Web site. If the search function on a site I’m perusing isn’t very good, I go to Google and enter my keywords followed by “site:” and the name of the site I’d like to search. So entering “2001 annual report site:prudential.com” (without the parentheses) searches prudential.com for all pages containing the phrase “2001 annual report.” (Tip: no space between the colon and the address of the site.)

Use “allinurl” and Google will find Web sites with a specific word in the address. So, for instance, if I wanted to find a bunch of Web sites with the word “boston” in the web address I’d enter allinurl:boston.

For a more complete list of Google’s advanced operators see www.google.com/help/operators.html.

Adding a “-” to your search query forces Google to ignore pages that include that word. Example: boston–fenway will overlook pages that contain both boston and fenway. A “+” does the opposite, requiring a word or phrase to be included.

You’ve probably noticed that when you misspell a word Google will ask “Did you mean?” and offer an alternate spelling. In a pinch, you can use this feature as a quick spell checker. Even better: look at the top of any search results page for a line that says “Searched the web for…” Next to it the keywords you searched for may show up as underlined links. Click on one and it’ll take you to the definition of the word at dictionary.com.

See that “Advanced Search” link just to the right of the search box? Under there you’ll find all kinds of ways to slice and dice a search, including by date, language or file type (handy if you want to search just pdf files for instance.) Just below Advanced Search is “Preferences.” Here you can change Google to any one of a long list of languages from Afrikaans to Zulu.

Speaking of languages, just under Preferences is the “Language Tools” link where you can quickly translate a phrase or an entire Web page from a long list of languages into English.

Now, back to the tabs.

The second one, “Images,” searches for photos and graphics.

The next tab, “Groups,” will search discussion forums (aka Newsgroups) where people yak about every topic imaginable. It’s a good way to check the buzz about a company or issue.

Next up, is “Directory” which presents you with a neatly categorized list organized by topic. If you’re not sure where to start a search the directory can help you drill down from a more general topic to specifics.

Even though the last tab, “News,” has been around for awhile, it’s a “beta” or test version of Google’s news search. The best thing about this feature is freshness. Breaking stories from around the world can appear here within minutes.

For more tips on tweaking your Google searches, check out “Google Hacks: 100 Industrial-Strength Tips and Tools.”

Michelle Johnson lectures on online research.
higher learning

Training Never Stops on the Road to Success

By Tiffany Black

Journalism, unlike some other professions, does not require hours of training to be certified. But in order to master your craft and stay ahead of industry trends continuous training is necessary.

It was through the NABJ Listserv that I learned of a training workshop that sparked my interest. In my concentration, online journalism, it is essential to be up to speed with the latest technological developments. So when I read about a free training opportunity, I applied immediately.

I applied three times (rejected twice) for the Western Knight Center for Specialized Journalism Multimedia Reporting and Convergence Workshop and eventually my persistence paid off. Attending this workshop was by no means a “vacation” from my job. It was four of the most intense days. But by the end of the experience, I’d learned a lot, built a great Web site with my team and made new friends and contacts within the industry. WKC fellowships cover lodging, meals, instruction and a partial travel subsidy.

Well there are a lot of similar programs out there for journalists, if you do some research. There are also training opportunities in your own newsrooms if you just use a little creativity.

It’s understood that you will learn a lot about the job through hands-on experience, but there are other skills and aspects of journalism you may never learn without additional training.

Despite the stigma of being expensive, there exist training programs that offer stipends. The Newspaper Association of America offers about 30 minority fellowships in the spring and fall for journalists to attend seminars sponsored by The American Press Institute, Poynter, Maynard Institute and other academic and media organizations.

Some media companies allot money each year for employees to train, or they might offer tuition reimbursement for those who decide to go back to school and take a few advanced courses. Inquire with human resources to see what funds might be available.

There are also opportunities for job training at your place of employment.

“I have been to all the training classes the AJC offered,” says Ryon Horne, agate clerk for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s sports department. “The challenge for me was learning the different department styles and ideas as far as what is news and heads and design. Believe it or not, they are all different. The headline and the design classes were good.”

Horne emphasizes that hands-on experience counts for a whole lot.

When you can’t go to seminars, you can rely on co-workers.

Identify co-workers who possess a skill or job that interests you. If someone you work with gets the chance to attend training outside of the newsroom, follow-up with them to see what they learned and maybe get handouts they might have received.

Talk to whomever is in charge of newsroom development about having brown-bag sessions.

They are offered all the time for the summer interns but are ignored as an option for training full-time employees. Brown-bag sessions are cheap and an easy way to utilize the talent within your newsroom.

“It’s called continuous learning,” says Bobbie Bowman, diversity director for the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

“Our business is rapidly changing, and people who want to succeed and do well need to keep up with those changes.”

Bowman explains why it is important to seek additional training.

“It’s the same reason teachers continue to take classes, that doctors continue to attend seminars on new procedures,” she says.

“The world continues to change, and you have to change with it. The pace of change is accelerating because of the Internet and the country’s demographics. It’s a whole new world out there.”

Whether you are on your first journalism job or have been in the industry for 15-plus years, learning your craft should never stop because we all need to grow and improve.

Tiffany Black is NABJ’s internship coordinator and an online news editor at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.
TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

American Press Institute  
www.americanpressinstitute.org

Freedom Forum  
www.freedomforum.org

Investigative Reporters & Editors  
www.ire.org

Knight Center for Specialized Journalism  
www.knightcenter.umd.edu

Western Knight Center for Specialized Journalism  
www.wkconline.org

National Press Foundation  
www.nationalpress.org

Poynter Institute for Media Studies  
www.poynter.org

American Copy Editors Society  
www.copydesk.org

National Press Photographers Association  
www.nppa.org

Society of Professional Journalists  
www.spj.org

JournalismTraining.org  
A searchable database of journalism training opportunities across the country.  
www.journalismtraining.org

For more fellowships go to  
www.nabj.org/fellowships.html or www.journalismjobs.com/Fellowship_Listings.cfm
The NABJ Coast to Coast choir inspired the calls and shouts of “Amen,” “Hallelujah” and “Praise Him” during the annual Gospel Brunch at the 2003 convention in Dallas.

The choir, made up of 50-plus NABJ members from all over the United States, debuted during the Aug. 10 brunch, opening for gospel superstar Donnie McClurkin.

For NABJ member Michelle Starr, of M Strategies, Inc., the best moment was seeing everyone in the Landmark Ballroom on their feet, dancing and
praising the Lord with the choir. “This 50-member choir was so electrifying,” she says. “Donnie McClurkin said that our music inspired him—and even he went longer than planned.”

The choir was the outcome of months of Starr’s hard work and organization. She got the idea after she and longtime NABJ member LaMont Jones listened to gospel stars Take 6 at the 2002 Gospel Brunch in Milwaukee. Starr presented the suggestion a few months later to then-NABJ Vice President-Broadcast and Convention Chair Mike Woolfolk and the convention planning team.

“Everyone thought it was a fantastic idea,” Woolfolk says. “We wanted to take the Gospel Brunch to a new level, and including our own members was perfect.” He adds that the debut proved to be a powerful way to close the convention’s annual gathering.

The choir took the stage, one member at a time,” reminiscent of a national roll call,” says Starr. When the choir started its set with the Byron Cage single, “The Presence of the Lord is Here,” that sentiment was obvious even without the choir’s declaration.

In all, the choir, which was rehearsed and directed by renowned gospel clinician Charles E. Mitchell, performed five of the nine songs they prepared that week for the brunch. The songs performed included “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” and “I’ve Got a Right to Praise Him.”

The choir was among the biggest thing to hit NABJ since the arrival of the annual scholarship basketball tournament in 1995, says Herbert Lowe, NABJ’s president.

It has been asked to headline during NABJ’s segment of the joint ecumenical brunch celebration at UNITY 2004 in Washington, D.C., this summer.

“There’s absolutely no way there can be a gospel brunch ever again without the choir being a part of it,” Lowe says.

For more about the choir, including a roster of its members, visit www.nabj.org/coasttocoast.html.

Mashaun Simon covers arts and entertainment for the Atlanta Daily World.
Need to know the latest news affecting black journalists?

Looking for a NABJ chapter near you?

Want to find out about convention registration?

Researching scholarship and internship opportunities?

Look no further than...

www.nabj.org

NABJ’s home on the Web

Log on today!

HERE’S WHAT YOU’LL SEE...

**PRESIDENT’S CORNER**
Messages from the NABJ president

**ABOUT NABJ**
Background information about the association and its mission statement and goals

**AWARDS**
Salute to Excellence and Special Honors winners as well as contest information

**NEWSROOM**
NABJ news releases, statements and media alerts

**MEDIA RESOURCES**
Links to general media and organizations

**MEDIA INSTITUTE**
Training and professional development programs

**DIVERSITY**
Links and resources for information on diversity initiatives in America’s newsrooms

**FELLOWSHIPS**
Educational opportunities around the country

**STUDENT SERVICES**
Scholarship and internship information as well as other services for student members

**REGIONS/CHAPTERS**
Chapter listings and contact information

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
Board member contact information and bios

**STAFF**
NABJ staff listing with contact information

**MEMBERS ONLY**
As a NABJ member, there’s a whole section devoted exclusively for you. You can search for jobs, research archived NABJ documents, look up fellow members in the membership directory and much more!

**NABJ LISTSERV**
Interested in participating in a discussion group with your fellow members? Sign up for the NABJForum, a members-only e-mail and bulletin board discussion group designed to focus on topics of interest to black journalists. Contact rprince@erols.com to sign up.

We welcome story or photo submissions from our members. To discuss news items and features, call the national office at (301) 445-7100; send a fax to (301) 445-7101 or an e-mail to nabj@nabj.org.
**A COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY**

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) is an organization of 3,000 journalists, students and media-related professionals that advocates for diversity in newsrooms and in news content. We are committed to providing quality programs and services for Black journalists worldwide. **As a NABJ member, you'll receive these valuable resources and benefits:**

- Year-Round Personal and Professional Development Opportunities
- Access to NABJ Jobs Online
- Access to the NABJ Annual Career Fair
- Leadership and Mentoring Opportunities
- Regional and National Networking Opportunities
- Industry Information and Action Alerts
- Discounts on Convention Registrations and Regional Conferences
- Participation in Salute to Excellence Awards Program
- Scholarship and Internship Opportunities
- Student Services Support
- Members-only Web Access
- Online Membership Directory
- Free subscription to NABJ E-News
- Free subscription to *NABJ Journal*, quarterly magazine
- NABJ Annual Report

**MEMBERSHIP PROFILE (please print clearly)**

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**STUDENT MEMBERS**

- [ ] Freshman
- [ ] Sophomore
- [ ] Junior
- [ ] Senior
- [ ] Graduate Student

**Graduation Date:**

**RELEASE INFORMATION**

Indicate preferred mailing address:  [ ] Home  [ ] Work/School

NABJ occasionally receives requests for our member mailing list to disseminate vital information to NABJ members to include media issues. Would you like to be included in these mailings?  [ ] Yes  [ ] No

(over)
MEMBERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

a) What is your gender?
- Female
- Male

b) What is your age group?
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65 and over

c) Which best describes you?
- Executive
- Staff
- Management
- Student

d) Which of the following fields do you work in primarily?
- Newspaper
- Magazine
- Newsletter
- Television
- Radio
- Online Media
- Public Relations
- Educator
- Student

Volunteer Interests

Mark all that apply.
- Annual Convention
- Fundraising
- NABJ Journal
- Task Forces/Committees
- Other_______________________

Membership Dues

Full Member - Working journalists, including reporters, editors, photographers, newsroom managers, etc. who produce, gather and disseminate news for newspapers, television and radio stations, magazines, wire services, etc. and full-time freelance journalists.

- One Year ($80)
- Two Years ($150)
- Five years ($350)

Associate Member, $50 - Part-time freelance journalists, journalism teachers and other media-related professionals.

Student Member, $25 - Full-time students at an accredited college or university. Course of study must be in the communication field, preferably journalism.

Membership Dues $_______

Plus my tax-deductible DONATION to support:

- 30th Anniversary Fund $_______
- National Scholarship $_______
- Internship Fund $_______
- Student Development Program Fund $_______
- Support a Student to Attend NABJ Convention $_______

TOTAL $_______

Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes; however, dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

PAYMENT METHOD

- I would like to participate in the Auto-Renewal Program. I authorize NABJ to charge my credit card annually to automatically renew my membership.

- VISA    MASTERCARD    AMERICAN EXPRESS    CHECK    MONEY ORDER

ACCOUNT NUMBER    EXPIRATION DATE    BILLING ZIP CODE

CARDHOLDER’S NAME (as it appears on card—please print)

SUBMIT APPLICATION

VIA WEB
A fast, easy and secure way to apply. Go to www.nabj.org and click on Join NABJ.
Credit Card payments only.

VIA FAX
NABJ: (301) 445-7101.
Credit Card payments only.

VIA MAIL
NABJ
c/o SunTrust Bank
PO. Box 79613
Baltimore, MD 21279-0613

VIA CREDIT CARD/CHECK
Secured Web site for credit card payment and/or the convenience of personal check by mail.

Please allow two weeks for processing.
Giving you the power to succeed

At HP, we celebrate the inventive spirit—and the idea that the right technology can help people achieve remarkable things. That’s why we’re proud to work side-by-side with the National Association of Black Journalists to deliver leading technology solutions that drive business value and improve the lives of our customers.

To find out more about special offers for NABJ members, call 800.881.8145 Passcode PCB1 or visit www.hp.com/go/Preferredcustomers
UNITY 2004: It’s Your Convention

By Ernie Sotomayor

Will you be at UNITY 2004 in Washington, D.C.? What’s in it for you? Will you be at your convention? That’s right. Your convention.

You gathered two years ago in Milwaukee, in Phoenix to celebrate your 25th anniversary in 2000 and last year in Dallas. This year, NABJ will be in Washington, Aug. 4-8. This will be your convention. If it’s to be a success, it’ll take your participation.

UNITY has initiated a strategic planning process to chart its path for the next five years, to identify new sources of revenue, and most importantly, how to leverage the collective strength of the 8,000 members of the alliance partners – NABJ, Asian American Journalists Association, National Association of Hispanic Journalists and Native American Journalists Association. Our intent is to focus its mission, become more proactive, more activist and tackle issues more forcefully than ever. And for that to happen, it will take the strongest possible showing by the nation’s journalists of color.

UNITY 2004’s agenda will have programming, speakers, workshops and other activities that are meant to make journalism more diverse, accurate, representative and, more honest. In an election year, in Washington, we fully expect President Bush and his Democratic challenger will not shun the biggest journalism convention ever. We’ve invited United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and hope he’ll participate.

We’ll examine media ownership, journalism education, the assault on press freedoms and diversity, executive management in print and broadcasting, and there will be association-specific programming designed specifically by each UNITY partner.

We’ve restructured the planning process, formed teams from volunteers and professional staff, and are working to make this gathering a financial success for all the UNITY partners. The Poynter Institute, American Press Institute, Columbia University and many other training centers are on board; we’re preparing, for the first time, a high-level executive training partnership with the American Society of Newspaper Editors and we are working on the same for broadcasters with the Radio and Television News Directors Association.

At your Dallas convention, many of you heard your new president and my Newsday colleague, Herbert Lowe, speak about the need to examine the Washington press corps and diversity. A project by a task force of UNITY partners was already underway to do the most comprehensive census and survey ever, to see which companies are diverse, reveal names, offer solutions and commit our expertise, associations’ expertise and members to make journalism better. But the coalition, if it’s to be effective, must be more than just a convention every five years. Consider: • In Jan. 2003, UNITY and its partners attended a summit by the ASNE in Nashville, and making a strong case for development of training programs and no cuts in spending for diversity issues. At that meeting NAHJ’s Parity Project was endorsed. • In March, we made a joint filing to protest the Federal Communications Commission’s refusal to hold more than a single public hearing prior to approving new media ownership rules.

UNITY 2004 can be a big part of that. See you at our convention.

Ernie Sotomayor is Long Island Editor for Newsday.com in Melville, N.Y. For more information about UNITY: Journalists of Color, visit www.unityjournalists.org.
UNITY 2004
August 4-8, 2004
Washington D.C.

diversity. no excuses.
Going Up?

Growth and opportunity are hallmarks of a career in Gannett. We offer talented journalists the chance to grow at any one of 100 daily newspapers and web sites across the USA, and the opportunity to move up from our smallest to our largest. Your skills and aspirations will chart your course.

What do we look for? Intelligence. Talent. Drive. An innovative spirit. Journalists who respect the finest traditions of our profession, even as we continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of readers.

Gannett seeks a workforce as diverse as the communities we serve. This long-held commitment has made us the industry leader in minority staffing and promotion.

If you are ready to reach higher, come talk to us. You can also visit us at www.gannett.com.

Gannett is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We recognize and appreciate the benefits of diversity in the workplace. People who share this belief or reflect a diverse background are encouraged to apply.