

# CAMPUS NEWS/FEATURES

## African American Beauty

Review: Reynolda House Museum art is impressive

Joe Houser  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Walking into the gallery at Reynolda House Museum of American Art in Winston-Salem, you will feel engulfed by a flowing sea of vibrant color stemming from the exhibit, "Ancestry & Innovation: African American art from the American Folk Art Museum."

The exhibit, which runs through April 13, is an impressive display featuring work from self-taught African American artists. The paintings in the gallery are especially interesting because they are so simplistic.

"The simplicity of the paintings communicates the artist's intentions of showing life through the eyes of an ordinary artist," said Joseph Johnson, a Reynolda House visitor.

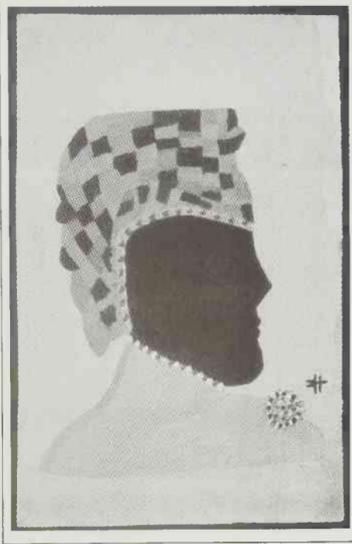
These paintings may seem slightly childlike to some people; however, these artists taught themselves without the benefit of professional instruction.

In contrast to the paintings, the sculptures and quilts on display are intricate and complex. The colors the artists used are so vivid that it is hard to take your eyes away from them. The focus of one quilt is a hexagon, which radiates out into the shape of a star. The colors are so vibrant; it seems as if you are looking at the sun itself.

Another impressive piece of art is "The Last Frontier." This is basically a love seat/end table/primping station all in one. Although it seems like just a bunch of junk thrown together, it has such lucid color, intricate design and amazing lines that you can't help but stare at its beauty.

The exhibit offers an exquisite display of extraordinary art made by ordinary people. Reynolda House and its current exhibit of African American art is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, and is at 2250 Reynolda Rd.

-www.reynoldahouse.org



Photos courtesy of the Smithsonian



## Howard U. stops Hilltop's presses

Shauntel Lowe  
BLACK COLLEGE WIRE

A Howard University policy board decided that the print edition of the student newspaper will not be published for the rest of the school year, but the paper will continue publishing online as the staff tries to dig itself out of a financial crisis.

"There's not enough money that would allow them to print a daily between now and the end of the year," University spokesperson Ron Harris told Black College Wire late Wednesday, March 26.

Drew Costley, Hilltop editor

The division of student affairs has agreed to pay for a special print graduation issue in May and will pay the salaries of the staff publishing online for the rest of the school year, Harris said.

Last week, the top editor of the Hilltop, Drew Costley, said the paper owed its printer, the Washington Times, \$48,000 for past printing bills.

Since news broke about the situation, more than \$20,000 has been raised for the paper by various campus departments, faculty, staff and alumni, Harris said. But the board determined it was not enough.

In addition to the overdue printing bills, the paper has had to deal with missing funds and unpaid advertising. In a March 21 interview, Costley said that the business office had not sent out invoices and tearsheets to advertisers for a month and a half during the fall, resulting in \$40,000 to \$45,000 in lost revenue.

Business manager speaks out  
But on March 27, the

Hilltop's business manager, Ashley Marshall, said the lost revenue, which was discussed at the latest policy board meeting, only amounted to about \$10,000. Marshall, a junior majoring in legal communications, said a member of the business staff had been logging the invoices but did not physically mail them out to advertisers and was fired in part because of that.

Marshall said the real issue is not the amount of lost revenue.

"We just didn't get enough revenue altogether," she said. According to Marshall, fall advertising revenue for the paper has been falling steadily since 2005, the first year the paper went daily. In fall 2005, over \$149,000 worth of ads were sold. In fall, 2006 the amount was a little over \$122,000. This past fall, only \$86,000 worth of ads were sold, she said. These figures show a 42 percent drop in ad revenue in just two years.

Marshall attributes the drop to a nationwide struggle for print publications to secure advertising and inadequate training and time for her and her staff to do ad campaigns. She said she applied for the business manager position in spring 2007 but was not hired.

In mid-August, two weeks before the start of the school year, the business manager who had been hired quit, and Marshall stepped in as an interim business manager before officially being hired in September.

The office was not ready for the start of the school year, she said, explaining that during the summer, the business manager is paid to stay and collect revenue from the pre-

vious school year and create ad campaigns for the upcoming year, but none of that got done for this year, she said.

Staff needs more training, support

"The real issue with the Hilltop is that there's not enough support for the financial matters of the Hilltop. When the Hilltop went daily, knowing that it was going to be a lot more fiscally strenuous on the paper, there should have been more advisers put on the board for financial purposes," Marshall said.

Harris said there are 17 members on the policy board, including students, faculty and staff.

Recently, Costley said in January, \$20,000 was missing from the paper's account and no one seemed to know where it had gone. On March 26, Harris said that as the result of an "accounting error," some money had been missing from the paper's account, but he did not know when or how much.

"Some money was inadvertently transferred to a different account and as soon as that mistake was discovered that money was transferred back," he said.

Marshall said the error related to the payroll system and they knew where the money was.

For now, Harris said the university has created a subcommittee within the policy board to determine what systemic issues contributed to the current financial crisis and how to avoid a similar situation in the future.

"The ideal solution is for the Hilltop to be printing daily as it was before," Harris said.

## Black Republicans: MLK was one of us

Roddie A. Burris  
MCT WIRE SERVICE

COLUMBIA, S.C.

Martin Luther King Jr. is turning heads near Interstate 26 in Orangeburg, S.C., featured on a billboard that claims the nation's foremost civil rights leader was a partisan.

"Martin Luther King Jr. was a REPUBLICAN," the sign reads.

Erected by a group called the National Black Republican Association, the sign has become one of the latest volleys in America's disjointed conversation about race and history.

"I almost broke my neck trying to look at it," said Katon Dawson, S.C. Republican Party chairman, who said he saw the advertisement recently while attending a conference in the area.

Though the billboard is "not in coordination with the South Carolina Republican Party," Dawson said he applauds its message because, in this contentious election year, it highlights Republicans' views that the Democratic Party traditionally takes blacks' votes for granted.

"The South Carolina Republican Party is not going to concede any vote of any group in this state," Dawson said.

Based in Sarasota, Fla., the National Black Republican Association goes much further in its criticism of the Democratic Party, calling it racist and socialist.

Frances Rice, a co-founder and chairwoman of the association, recently said the Democratic Party is laden with racists, bred from its support of segregation. She said the party has misled the country by dangling dead-end social programs in the faces of black people.

"We're trying to capture the attention of our fellow citizens, particularly African-Americans, and inspire them to go to our Web site and get the real facts, including the fact that Dr. Martin Luther King was a Republican," Rice said. "That's one way to capture the imagination of our citizens."

The association's Web site says its goal is to return African-Americans to their Republican Party roots by enlightening them about how the GOP fought for civil rights and is fighting for their educational and economic advancement.

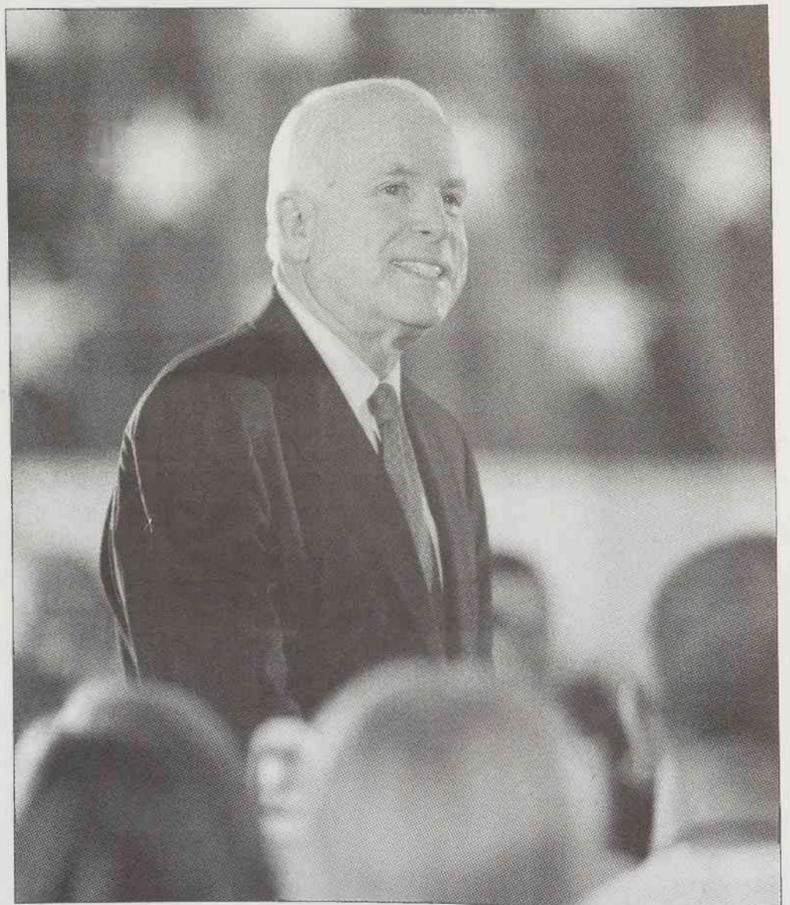
"This is crazy," said Joe Werner, executive director of the S.C. Democratic Party. "It is almost laughable that any believable person would think that the party of Lee Atwater and Karl Rove have the best interests of African-Americans at heart."

Rice correctly points out that African-Americans historically were Republican voters. But critics point out that black voters abandoned the

party in droves when civil rights legislation was signed into law by Democratic President Lyndon Johnson in the 1960s.

"My father was a Republican, so what does that mean?" asked Rep. Jim Clyburn, a Democrat who represents Orangeburg and arguably the most Democratic county in South Carolina. "The fact of the matter is that the Republican Party of today is not the same party of my father."

"Everybody knows that after 1948 in the



A billboard in South Carolina is drawing attention to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s affiliation with the Republican Party. John McCain will likely be the party's nominee.

Democratic Party, the Democratic primary was opened up for black participation. Those people who did not want to associate with blacks, they then left the Democratic Party. They then found refuge in the Republican Party. Everybody knows that, except for maybe the girl that wrote the press release."

Rice claims she knew King and attended his church in Atlanta.

Dawson said he is unsure of King's political party roots and unsure of how others can be so sure now.

"I would suspect Dr. King would be a Democrat today," Dawson said.