HUMOR EDITOR

Fall 2019

What the Humor Editor actually does is never set in stone. All things involving the Backpage are almost improvisational: from making up ideas to lampoon the Whitman status quo to figuring out how layout is going to work for the page with the material you have, it forces the humor editor to get creative. As Humor Editor, you spearhead the whole process, from coming up with ideas for your writers, to working closely with your Production Associate to ensure your creative vision comes to fruition.

You will be responsible for meeting with your writers as a group and coming up with ideas (bouncing ideas off writers works, and helps them come up with good ideas of their own). You are expected to edit their work and make sure it is funny, and to give both positive and constructive feedback to your writers. While being funny is important for the position, you must also be willing to become competent in the whole process of making a paper. This means making deadlines, e-mailing writers and other staff, and having the capacity to allow yourself to be subject to criticism from others.

Each editor is responsible for soliciting applications and hiring a team of writers at the beginning of each semester as well as mid-semester as necessary.

Experience working for a production is important for this position. It helps to understand the production schedule and have experience editing people’s work. Other important skills include creativity, time management, organization, being detail-oriented, good leadership, communication, and being able to problem solve.

Approximate time commitment: 6-10 hours per week

The Humor Editor should have the following skills:

* Strong writing ability
* Familiarity with journalistic and nonfiction feature writing
* Ease talking to new people, confidence in interview situations
* Strong phone and email skills
* Responsibility and self-accountability
* Awareness of news, blogs & current events
* Prior experience as a reporter/writer for *The Pioneer* is highly recommended
* Ability to think creatively about graphics/design for the feature page

Please fill out the questions below and submit with two writing samples to wire@whitman.edu  by midnight on Friday, May 31st . Candidates who have previously held an editorial position on *The Wire* may skip questions 1 and 6, and do not need to submit writing samples.

Name:

Graduating Year:

Email address:

1. Please describe any relevant writing or editing experience you have. Have you worked on a publication similar to *The Wire*? What experience do you have in a leadership position?
2. If you have previously held an editorial position on *The Wire*, what would you do differently this semester? If you have never held an editorial position on *The Wire*, why are you interested in being an editor?
3. What are your goals for *The Wire* this year? What would you like to see the paper do more of, or do better or differently?
4. In your opinion, what is the purpose of a humor section? What are your goals for the section as an editor?
5. Please pitch 3 article ideas. Include a brief description of each article as well as how you envision it appearing on the page. Additionally, please describe how you would go about gathering article ideas for your section(s).
6. Please describe your ability to meet deadlines and work under pressure.
7. What other activities will you be involved in next semester, and how much of a weekly time commitment are these activities? How heavy is your academic course load for this semester?

Please include two writing samples, preferably of humor or satire writing.