

TRILOGY CELEBRATES NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

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'A RED CARPET AFFAIR' SHOWCASES LEADERSHIP



Student Leaders at the Undergraduate Student Government Association Gala held at the University's main Auditorium

BY RINA DANIELS

Several hundred people were in attendance at the USGA Awards Gala on Monday, May 7, 2007 in UDC's main auditorium. Among those present were University students, staff, administration, faculty, family and friends. Larry Waters with Miller Brewing Company, a major sponsor for this year's gala, served as master of ceremonies.

Award categories included "Distinguished Professor", "Distinguished Honor Society", "Outstanding Sorority and Fraternity", "Female/Male Athlete of the Year", and "Outstanding Staff Member."

Though unable to attend, J.C. Hayward was honored with the "Community Service Award". Brenda Brown, winner for the College of Arts and Sciences' "Outstanding Professor" said, "This is the best program I've attended this year. It's the best thing we've got going."

UDC HOLDS VIGIL IN MEMORY OF V.A. TECH VICTIMS

BY ROBIN WILLIAMS

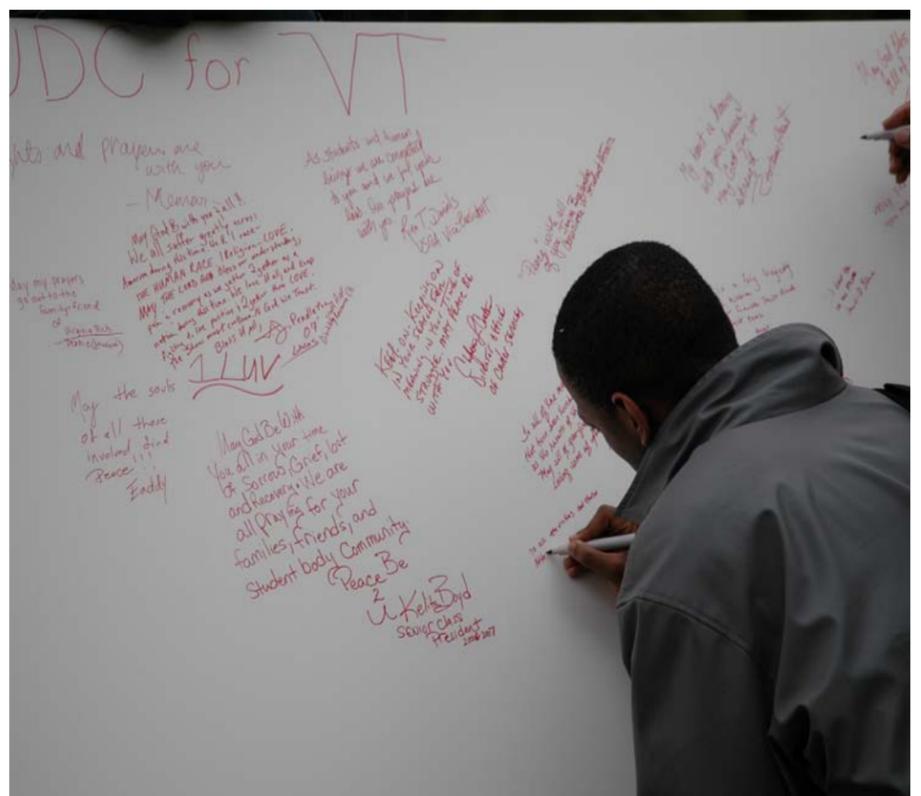
In response to the recent Virginia Tech tragedy, the University of the District of Columbia community held two vigils to honor and remember those who were killed in what is now being called the worst massacre in modern U.S. history.

Both vigils were held on April 17 - one at 1 p.m., the other at 7 p.m. - on the Dennard Plaza, was hosted by USGA President William Kellibrew IV. "It can happen anywhere," Kellibrew said, and expressed the need for everyone to reflect on the issue.

During the vigils, students, faculty, and staff signed poster boards expressing their pain, sadness, and thoughts over the tragic event. Writing small prayers and words of hope and inspiration on the board titled "UDC for VT."

A donation collection was also started and the University's Counseling and Career Development Center is collaborating with Virginia Tech, and hoped to lend a helping hand to students who

See IN MEMORY OF V.A. TECH, page 10



Student signing a message board during a vigil held a few hours after the VA Tech shooting incident

CAMPUS NEWS

DC VOTE RALLY A SUCCESS

BY ROBIN WILLIAM

This past month, the University of the District of Columbia's Undergraduate Student Government Association joined forces with, political figureheads such as Mayor Fenty and the surrounding community to protest for the District of Columbia's right to political representation. Although the District has a mayor and congressmen and women that act as a liaison between the government and the issues and concerns of Washingtonians, there is yet to be an individual named to represent the District of Columbia in the Senate, leaving residents asking why the district is subject to taxation without full representation.

The rally, organized by DC vote and other advocates for DC voting rights, consisted of scores of people marching to the National Mall, and was one of many efforts that individuals and groups, such as DC Vote and the University of the District of Columbia, are putting together to help get the need of proper representation for the district on the nation's list of priorities. On Thursday,

April 19, 2007, the DC Voting Rights Act passed the House of Representatives, and although the Senate has yet to review the bill, many agree that it is about time that the district was able to get representation. Being the heart of the nation, it is a mystery to many of why the District of Columbia does not have representation and why the votes of the residents here seem not to count.

President of the Undergraduate Student Government Association, William Kellibrew IV, and Student Representative on the Board of Trustees, Selvon Waldron were two of many students and faculty that marched as a representation of the University. The University of the District of Columbia is the only public institution of higher learning in the district and has merged with the community on many occasions to voice and follow through on the issues that concern the district, its surrounding neighbors, and its residents. Singing the National Anthem to kick off the event, Kellibrew expressed the importance of the march and the need for such rallies to get the district to where it needs to be.

MAYOR FENTY DECLARES 'UDC DAY'

BY SELVON M.
WALDRON

The University of the District of Columbia celebrated its sixth Annual Gala on Wednesday, April 25, on an afternoon that highlighted the talent and leaderships of the University. The UDC Gala is held annually to benefit the UDC foundation which provides scholarship to deserving University students.

Notable attendees include Mayor Adrian Fenty, Vincent Gray, Chairman of the D.C. Council and other District of Columbia Council men and women. The Gala, which was chaired by the Honorable Anthony A. Williams, was organized collage of distinguished individuals.

The gala was hosted by JC Hayward, the vice president for Media Outreach at WUSA-9. The night was filled with many positive moments and praise from the District community, certainly it should be noted that all artistic performances came from University students. Performers included the powerhouse voices of the UDC Chorale, William C. Kellibrew IV, USGA president, B. Jackson Caesar music education major, and Krislynn Perry a jazz studies major. The UDC Jazz Ensemble also pro-

vided soothing jazz percussion throughout the event. Their performances garnered standing ovations and high praise by all in attendance.

"The UDC Gala is truly becoming an event the District Community looks forward to each year," said Mayor Fenty as he presented the University with the proclamation declaring April 25 "UDC Day". Also present at the event were the third place UDC Honda Team, Miss UDC contestants, Student Government Leadership, faculty members and staff.

The plateau of the event unfolded with the presentations of the Firebird Awards for Public Service and the Firebird Award for Business to Congressman John Lewis and Mr. Anthony Lewis. Both awardees are legendary and respected for their contributions to the improvement of the community.

Congressman Lewis is revered for fortitude on Civil Rights and Anthony Lewis's skillful leadership at the helm of Verizon Washington, DC is benchmark. The University of the District of Columbia 2007 Gala was a memorable occasion and many have already marked their calendars for 2008.

ERNEST GREEN TALKS RACE: PERSEVERANCE AND THE FUTURE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

BY JAY BELMORE

The Office of Community Outreach and Involvement hosted a Lunch and Dialogue affair on March 29, honoring Ernest Green of the "Little Rock 9," titled "Perseverance: Finish What you Started."

In the spring of 1957, 25 students from the all-black Horace Mann High School were chosen by the Little Rock school board to attend all-white Central High School, in compliance with the United States Supreme Court's Brown vs. Board of Education decision of 1954, to desegregate the country's public school system.

On Sep. 2, 1957, the Arkansas National Guard, under then Governor Orval Faubus' orders, blocked the entrance to the school turning away black students, setting off a "constitutional crisis," described Green.

"I paid some attention to Brown vs. Board of Education. The murder of Emmitt Till,"

who's open casket appeared in a 1955 copy of Jet Magazine, "the Rosa Parks bus boycott in 1956, and Jackie Robinson's roll in breaking barriers" in professional baseball had a profound effect on Green, who was only 17 years old at the time. "That horrible picture in Jet Magazine impacted me greatly."

Despite the public outrage in Little Rock over letting blacks attend Central High, Green pressed on with his individual and family's plans for him to attend school, and began his senior year on September 21, 1957.

"They were fighting to keep me out for reasons other than my personal education," said Green, who attributes his success at Central High to his family, neighbors, and all those who sacrificed to see Civil Rights come to fruition in the South, which was still living under Jim Crow Laws.

"This was a revolutionary change. We were challenging the status quo in Little Rock and around the country."

In May, 1958, Ernest Green became the first African American to graduate from Central High School. "When my name was called there was absolute silence...I believed it was the appropriate time for this, to make the world better for the future."

Green is currently a Managing Partner and Vice President of the global financial firm Lehman Brothers in Washington, D.C. "Finish what you started," was aimed at pointing out not only the errors of past injustices, but the challenges that face Americans today regarding equality, equity, and the future of Civil Rights.

"Life is only as good as you make it, and the restrictions are only what you impose on yourself," Green said. "It's all right to dream big, but you must be prepared to back up those dreams. A lot of people talk a good game but are unable to reinforce it."

BLACK PRESS FOCUSES ON POSITIVE VOICE

BY HOWARD
MCCULLOUGH
AND JAY BELMORE

On April 18 the University of the District of Columbia's Journalism Club and USGA presented the "2007 The Black Press Seminar." The first of two topics "The Hip-Hop Industry and News Media" tackled a range of issues, from Gangsta' Rap and why the media portrays it as the beacon of Hip-Hop music, to how the industry should be focusing on its righteous origins of being a positive voice for the African-American urban youth.

Panelist Pharoh Martin, Editor of Streets Magazine and former University student pointed out during the hotly contested forum, that record companies are often behind the negative stereotypes which portray African Americans as people who exploit themselves and their communities, just so the companies can reap the benefits record sales. "The record companies exploit negative culture. It sells. It becomes a formula," for record companies to promote a lifestyle, which often portrays African Americans negatively he said.

"The record companies are making big bucks while entertainers are getting chump change. Since the beginning

of black entertainment blacks have been exploiting blacks for money, minstrel shows made more money for black entertainers...gangsta rappers are doing the exact same thing now," said journalist and lecturer Peter Bailey, who sat on the panel.

However, panelist Clifton Coates Jr., local high school History Professor and local Hip-Hop artist known as "Vicee," said that Gangsta' rappers are telling stories about their lives and their environments that they come from, and are not responsible for the actions of their audiences. "Hip-Hop is a scapegoat...it's easy to target rappers." He went on to ask "Is Hip-Hop [music] the biggest issue right now" in America?

The discussion also talked about how women are portrayed in Gangsta' Rap music. Panelist Sheryl Hawkins, DC TV Channel 19, took objection to how black women are portrayed in the genre, and voiced her concerns about the influence the music is having on women and children. It forces society to "take a look at how we raise our children...what causes a male to denigrate the women that gave them life?" she asked.

She also pointed out that women need to force change

by speaking up to those who control the mostly white, mostly male dominated music industry. "And when" we can address these issues "then we will have something to rap about."

The second presentation titled the "Black Press Seminar," hosted local panelists, including Denise Rolark-Barnes, Publisher of the Washington Informer newspaper, Brian Debose, Washington Times National Desk Congressional Correspondent and Askia Muhammed, News Director for local radio station WPFW. They discussed the topic titled: "Through the Eyes of the Black Press: Is the U.S. Ready for the Presidency of Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton?"

"It's party politics right now for black America" said Debose, and questioned the Democratic Party's relationship with black America, and how they view race. "What they want to know is, are you black, and how black are you?" Debose did not endorse either candidate, Obama or Clinton, but said "if you want something fresh, new and exciting, vote for Obama."

Khalil Abdullah, representative of the ethnic media con-

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page 4

CAMPUS NEWS

UDC Students Stole the Spotlight at a National Meeting

BY ROBIN WILLIAM

Students of the University of the District of Columbia, in collaboration with the STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) Research Program, BKX Scientific Honor society, and National Institute of Science (NIS), had the honor of representing the University at the 64th Joint Annual BKX/NIS Meeting in Greensboro, NC.

During this meeting, which was held from March 14 to the 17, roughly 30 students were able to meet with other students and faculty members involved in science programs at different institutions.

The participants also heard from speakers such as Roderic I. Pettigrew, Ph.D., M.D., Director of the National Institute of Biological Imaging and Bioengineering, National Institutes of Health and Donald R. Lyons, Ph. D., Endowed Professor of Physics at Hampton University, among many other distinguished professionals within the field of science. Attending different exhibits and presentations throughout the four-day event, the students got a better understanding of the many different programs and institutions around the nation and were made aware of the opportunities in the scientific world for students in HBCU's.

Also during the event, the

students were given an opportunity to present their research to their peers in front of a panel of judges. Presenting research in biology, computer science, mathematics, physics, psychological and science education, each of the university's students represented the University of the District of Columbia and its STEM Research Program very well. Among the bunch was Aisha K. Parker, a Howard University graduate and post baccalaureate student currently majoring in Chemistry, Parker presented research acquired through her involvement with Dr. Carolyn Cousin, Biology professor here at the University of the District of Columbia and president of the National Institute of Health. Parker's presentation entitled, Current Perceptions on Cancer Prevention and Control, discussed findings from four focus groups from the DC Metropolitan area and earned first place honors in the Psychological and Education division.

Three other University of the District of Columbia students, Meraj Shaikh, giving a presentation entitled, Visiting the Hypothesis of Life on Mars Through Data, Moses Mosuke, presenting research entitled, An Interactive Website for the Center of Science and Engineering at the University of the District of Columbia, and Negede Abiyu Assefa's presentation on Fuel Cell,

received first place awards as well.

The University of the District of Columbia stole attention throughout the meeting, not only because its star students who snatched four first place awards out of the eight given out but also because of Dr. Carolyn Cousin, advisor to both the BKX Scientific Honor Society and NIS.

She is president of the National Institute of Science and was honored for working hard to secure grant from the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute to facilitate Undergraduate scientific research both at a campus and national level. Cousin has just been awarded with National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education NOBLE Prize.

Since she started teaching at the University in 1971, Cousin has been showing continuous interest in helping students pursue careers in biomedical research. Cousin, who has published over 20 research papers, has proven to be a winner in her field. And this award, which is given to distinguished faculty who work at Historically Black Colleges and Universities for their commitment to the organization, enthusiasm and provide great service to the student, fits her career perfectly.

MEN CAN PREVENT SEXUAL ASSAULT

BY ANTONIO

MARIN-DIETENS

The last Lunch and Dialogue for the spring 2007 semester, presented by the Office of Community Outreach and Involvement, was held on April 19, and was hosted by Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness and Campus Minister Jennifer Merrill, discussed the topic "What Men Can do in Preventing Sexual Assault."

Guest speaker, Mr. Patrick Lincoln from the "Men Can Stop Rape" organization explained how the organization is engaged in student outreach on different college campuses and high schools in the Washington Metropolitan area in order to engage men in how they can prevent sexual assault.

During the event, students, faculty, and staff-members talked about sexual assault, and its effect in different communities.

It was agreed upon that that most people agreed that rape has little to do with sexual relationships. Rather, it has more to do with power and control. "Rape is a form of domination, it is intended to force women and some men to feel intimidated," said Lincoln.

Many people think that rape happens more frequently in

economically disadvantaged areas and that it is a bigger issue for low-income people. However, most people in attendance believed that sexual assault is a social issue, indifferent to economical class, race, or country.

A brochure from the "Men Can Stop Rape" organization explained how some "attitudes about race and rape are built upon myth and misinformation. Latinos are short tempered; Asian women are passive; Black men are rapists; Jews are stingy; Black women are insatiable," it read.

The same brochure also stated that racism and sexually violent behavior are as American as "apple pie" by stating "the United States was built upon racist and sexually violent practices. One need look no further than the founding of our nation as an illustration of both---a time when Africans were enslaved by the millions---when Native Americans were driven west and massacred, and when black women were routinely sexually assaulted by white slave owners. People of color played a vital role in the birth of the country and were rewarded with violation and humiliation."

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GETS GRANT TO 'GO GREEN'

BY JAY BELMORE

The University of the District of Columbia is set to receive a grant from the District government's Department of the Environment (DDOE) Energy Office to construct a "zero energy" visitor's center that will run on renewable energy sources, including the use of gray water; usable rain water, recycled products and direct sunlight collected by solar panels.

The funds, \$230,000, will be used to construct the center, which was designed by University senior and Architecture major Sarah Alexander, who recently won a design contest held by the University's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

The visitor's center, a 1000 square-foot, mobile structure will be built on what has been dubbed "Power Hill," a plot of

land located on campus where a solar panel and wind generator are currently being used to generate, and study energy to be used to power the building.

"We are calling the building the 'Sustainable Energy Institute,'" said Alexander at a meeting between University officials and the DDOE on April 19 at the University. The students who entered the competition "had six-weeks to design their projects. It was a quick and intensive process."

Alexander, who hopes to one-day design "green buildings," or energy efficient structures, is excited about the new project, which is currently in its formative stage. "The office and the display area will showcase sustainable design technology and energy-saving features" she said. "Hopefully in the next six-to-nine months," the new building will be finished.

"A lot of it depends on the

additional funding," that the University hopes to get from outside sponsors and from other funding measures. "Hopefully" construction will begin "before the summer," said Dr. Ben Latigo, Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

Sharon Cooke, Director of the Office of Communication for the DDOE attended the meeting, and was enthusiastic about the newly proposed building, which will be used to educate people about energy efficiency.

The funds come from a small "surcharge" District residents commit to when paying monthly electricity bills. The money from bills paid "goes into a 'pot' used for educating residents of the District of Columbia about alternative energy sources...we are very excited" about the project, she added.

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CAMPUS NEWS

BLACK PRESS SEMINAR

BLACK PRESS, *From page 3*

solidation group New American Media also stressed the importance of the black media, said "The African-American press is part in-parcel, a part of the community...it's a right of the people." Regarding the upcoming elections, Abdullah said, "Yes, America is ready for a woman president, or an African American president."

Rolark-Barnes expressed her frustration with recent voter turn-out, not only in national politics, but in local as well. "The voter turnout numbers are declining. Only 42 percent turn out to vote," said Rolark-Barnes, who also voiced her concerns over recent voter turnouts in the community.

"Philosophically yes," black people as a whole could have a bigger influence on elections she said. But "making it happen, no. Many blacks are still not registered, aren't voting...aren't lobbying and don't participate in local elections."

Peter Bailey, who was a panelist during the earlier Hip-Hop forum, moderated the Black Press Seminar, turned the conversation towards the media's influence on voting.

"If you want a broader understanding of what's going on, you must read black newspapers." Bailey, who has been involved in the black press for over three decades worried that Americans in general are not paying attention to politics, and hoped that they would start paying more attention to the black media.

"You must read a fully developed story about what's going on. You have to read in order to be deeply informed," he said, and added that if the Democrats nominated either candidate, "Obama or Clinton, they "would be conceding the election" in 2008.

HPV VACCINE MAY BECOME MANDATORY

BY AMORYL JEROME

On April 3, the D.C. Council agreed 7 to 3 to support a vaccination bill targeted at pre-teen girls in the District. The bill, "HPV Vaccination and Reporting Act of 2007" introduced by Council members Cheh and Catania, calls for (1) a "requirement that the parent or legal guardian of a female child enrolling in grade 6 for the first time submit certification that the child has received the HPV vaccine; and (2) a provision that allows a parent or guardian to opt out of the HPV vaccination requirement". The bill will face a second and final vote in the coming weeks.

The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is a group of virus (of which there are over 100 types) that is easily transmitted. Any one who has any kind of sexual activity involving genital contact with an infected person can be infected (intercourse isn't necessary) and may not show any signs or symptoms, so they can pass the virus on without even knowing it. The HPV vaccine (Gardasil) may help guard against diseases that are caused by HPV Types 6, 11, 16, and 18. HPV Types 16 and 18 cause 70 percent of cervical cancer cases, and HPV Types 6 and 11 cause 90 percent of genital warts cases. This means that Gardasil will not treat these diseases and will not protect against diseases caused by other types of HPV.

The literature on Gardasil states that it may not fully protect everyone. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the only way you can totally protect yourself against HPV is to avoid any sexual activity that involves genital

contact. Proponents of the DC Bill want Gardasil administered to girls as young as 11 or 12. However, according to the CDC, of the approximately 6 million new cases of Genital HPV (this number represents more than 30 genital HPV types not just HPV types 6,11,16 & 18) in the U.S. every year, it is estimated that 74% of them occur in those in the 15-24 yr age group. Administered in three doses over a six month period, Gardasil is touted as effective for five years. Meanwhile, studies continue to be done to determine if boosters are needed.

If Mayor Fenty signs the bill into law it would make the District one of the few jurisdictions in the country that has made this vaccine a part of its school immunization list. Children's Hospital which has previously not given its position on the bill, finalized its position on the issue just hours before the Council voted. According to an article in the Washington Post, the directors approved the recommendation that the vaccine be made mandatory for preteen and adolescent girls. They however, cautioned that the law should not take effect for the next two years and that it should include an opt-out provision in all states. Texas is the only state that has mandated the vaccine.

The long term effects of Gardasil is unknown and as reported in the Washington Post, Council member Schwartz expressed concern over the extent of its testing on young girls before being approved by the federal government. She also urged that "an experiment" not be allowed on children.

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ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...

BRIGHT INKS

Dera Mother

Once upon a time the sun spoke to the moon and said
 "Nothing shine's forever, earth's days will end soon."
 The wind blew flowers until they laid as if they'd died
 then the wind whispered
 "Mother Earth's cried for too long."
 ...and still ... no one managed to listen.
 Now mother nature's about to abandon her children.
 The same one's who polluted her and ruined her, just to
 leave her in the past like they're through with her.
 The other planets told mother earth to calm down, even
 though her armors damaged and her tree's were sawed
 down....
 The star shone for her, but she said she had enough and
 that for nations, colors, and creeds she knew they'd blow
 her up!
 She felt unloved and aggravated with her dying
 children, then she cried and her tears caused floods that
 killed millions...
 All of a sudden there were shaking floors.
 It's an earthquake!!!.. the flowers asked earth " what
 for?"
 She said " They won't walk all over me no more!"
 Minutes later tsunami's and tornado's soared. Ice caps
 melted... the skies got grayer ...
 billions perished... along with the O zone layer.
 Radiation flourished and only few survived. Some of
 them evolved as if God had been revived...
 and instead of countries, they lived under one nation,
 with balanced spirits teaching future generations
 how to appreciate the earth and one another like if
 there's a creator, then an alien's our brother...

BY MATTHEW STEVENSON

Cold

Out in this brick air
 I stare @ the brink of
 Existence
 I'm enlisted in the big HE Army
 But the devil always trying to
 Harm me
 Wit a sensational sensation
 Call'd SIN
 I know that was alliteration
 I had to throw that right in its
 Become apart of me like
 Misogyny
 Cuz datz all da world haz to offer
 Me and other Black men
 I blend into my surroundings
 Like a chameleon astounded by
 The colors I gleam
 I write just to blow off my steam

By William Bell

DEARLY BELOVED

To my unborn older brother,
 Hardly I knew you,
 Dearly I missed you.
 Countless role models I've chosen to take your place,
 but not one met my standards,
 not one great enough to fill the space,
 not a single person on this earth's face.
 Still life on earth can be wonderful
 but at times depressing.
 Share with me, if any worldly language permits,
 the wonders of heaven,
 it's joys and endless limits.
 I find joy in knowing that, one day,
 reunited, I shall share in your bliss,
 someday, together,
 for ever and ever, one day.

By Afolabi Makinde

GASTON'S CORNER

WIN THROUGH YOUR ACTIONS, NEVER THROUGH ARGUMENT



BY DAVID GASTON

To all my friends who work hard to stay away from the moments filled with negative emotions, here is a story for you called the Sultan And The Vizier, from the "Book Of Arabic Wisdom And Guile, Thirteenth Century."

A vizier had served his master for some thirty years and was known and admired for his loyalty and truthfulness. His honesty, however, had made him many enemies in the court, who spread stories of his duplicity and perfidy.

They worked on the sultan day in and day out until he too came to distrust the innocent vizier and finally ordered the man who had served him so well to be put to death.

In his realm, those condemned to death were tied up and thrown into a pen where the sultan kept his fiercest hunting dogs.

The dogs would promptly tear the victim to pieces. Before being thrown to the dogs the vizier asked for one last request. "I would like ten days' respite," he said, "so that I can pay my debts and share out my goods among the members of my family and my children and appoint a guardian for them." After receiving a guarantee that the vizier would not try to escape, the sultan granted his request.

The vizier hurried home, collected one hundred gold pieces then paid a visit to the huntsman who looked after the sultan's dogs. He offered this man the one hundred gold pieces and said, "Let me look after the dogs for ten days."

The huntsman agreed, and for the next ten days the vizier cared for the beast with great attention, grooming them well and feeding them handsomely. By the end of the ten days they were eating out of his hand.

On the eleventh day the vizier was called before the sultan, the charges were repeated and the sultan watched as the vizier was tied up and thrown to the dogs. Yet when the beast saw him, they ran up to him with wagging tails. They nibbled affectionately at his shoulders and began playing with him.

The sultan and the other witnesses were amazed, and the sultan asked the vizier why the dogs had spared his life. The vizier replied, "I have looked after these dogs for ten days. The sultan has seen the result for himself. I have looked after you for thirty years, and what is the result? I am condemned to death on the strength of accusations brought by my enemies." The sultan blushed with shame.

He not only pardoned the vizier but gave him a fine set of clothes and handed over to him the men who had slandered his reputation. The noble vizier set them free and continued to treat them with kindness.

It's important to remember that for those who would rather we fail, it's our actions that will always speak louder than what we waste time arguing about. The ending is everything. Plan all the way to it!

Woman of UDC

You have a nice smile.
 I like the way your eyebrows are arched.
 You have nice toes, next time; let me do them for you.
 Do you like Ravioli, and Salad? I would love to treat you to such a grand dish.
 Are you married, pregnant, or single?
 Do you have any children? If so, are they accompanying us on our first date?
 I just want to get to know you for now, but later, I will want to cuddle with you while we watch a comforting movie like, The Fox and the Hound.
 What's your motivation?
 What are your Hobbies?
 What T.V shows do you like to watch?
 Have you ever been skinny dipping? I heard it's not too healthy, but it's really fun. We can go skinny dipping and pretend like the shark from jaws, or piranha's are after us! I can't say that I'll protect you, but I can say the last one to the shore won't be a happy camper.
 It's been lovely talking to you.
 A wise man once said, "Never leave a conversation without person contact information." So please let's do exchange contact information.
 I can't get us V.I.P. at the club.
 I can't take you out every night.
 And my luxury car does not exist.
 But here are the things I can do. I can give you the V.I.P treatment by the Water Front while singing the song by Luther Vandross, "Let me hold you tight."
 I will pay for your metro pass when I take you to places to relax your nerves, like the zoo, the museum, and the laundromat.
 Every one is relaxed while they do laundry.
 I know I have an abundance to offer, but please don't try and play me for a fool.
 I have been there, and done that, and it has grown very stale, like an old snicker bar you receive out of a vending machine when you are severely hungry.
 So if we do join each other in a romantic rendezvous, treat me as I shall treat you...like a rare and fragile sculpture, were one foul touch, or movement, can damage it permanently.

BY WILLIS

PRIDE WEEK



Black Press Seminar panelists discuss Hip-Hop and politics



The new sisters of the Beta Iota Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc



Greek Love



Dr. Pollard views renderings of the newly proposed student center



Breast Cancer awareness on Campus



Environmentalists meet on "Power Hill"



Carnival Spirit in the air



The red hot Miss UDC Pageant contestants

PRIDE WEEK



Howard Franklin Jr. Senior Recital



Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. fundraiser activity



Senior class Advisor, Mary Roberts with Senior class Secretary, Tiffany O'Neal, Elections Chair, Razzi Cooper III, and Senior Class President, Kelita Boyd



Ernest Green and Dr. Gail E. Holness

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Ask to speak with Tony Cole

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday 5:30am - 10:00pm

Saturday and Sunday 7:00am – 9:00pm

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...

UDC's POETRY TALENT

BY ANTONIO

MARIN-DIETENS

Matthew Stevenson, a 21 year-old originally from Illinois and majoring in Graphic Design at the University, and represents UDC's poetry talent. Matthew was the winner of the University's Homecoming poetry slam where he won a cash prize. In addition to winning Homecoming, Matthew represented our University at the 29th Annual Mount Vernon Poetry Festival. In honor of National Poetry Month, Stevenson made some time during this busy finals week for an interview with the *Trilogy*.

Q: Matthew, when did you start writing poetry?

A: I started writing fables after reading some of Aesop's material in the third grade. I continued to write, but I never really shared my writings because I was shy; however, that changed later in high school when I was trying to impress this girl.

She was my girlfriend a week later.

Q: How did you discover your talent?

A: I discovered my talent in the 9th grade at Woodrow High School when I wrote a poem in five minutes and my instructor told me it was one of the best poems she ever read. I have never told anyone this, but I couldn't see what she saw in the poem.

Q: What inspires you to write poetry?

A: The things that hurt my feelings inspire me to write the most. It could be my grandmother complaining about how nappy my hair is, or it could be the fact that my paycheck is late! Sometimes a quote from Confucius might influence a poem as well.

Q: Why did you decide to compete in the UDC poetry slam?

A: At first I did it because I was a broke student. With the poetry slams I won twice \$150, these first prizes kept my phone on [laughs]. But the biggest price is the love that people shared with me during that time.

Q: What do you try to tell the audience with your poems?

A: I try to tell everyone the things that many people are afraid to say. I am getting a step closer to death everyday; but I know that my message will live forever if it's universal.

Q: What does your family, friends, relatives think about your poems?

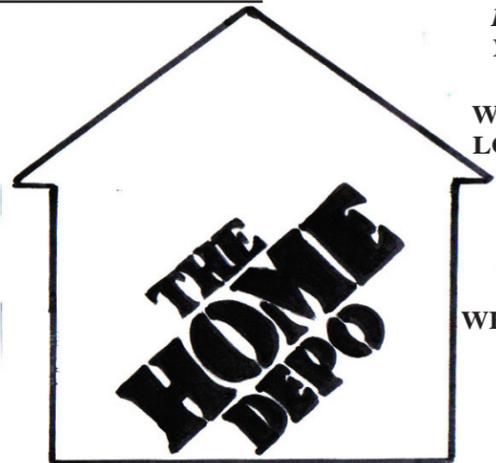
A: They definitely appreciate the fact that I keep it positive without cursing. My friends and family really think I'm the greatest. Some of my family members still won't buy my stuff though. They always want something for free.

Top Five Thoughts in Don Imus' Head Right Now!

1. This never would have happened if some one would have told me that I was still alive! I didn't think anybody could here me!
2. Why is Al Sharpton so mad at me? We basically have the same hair style. Straight, gray, black, and to the back.
3. Why did Barack Obama join the drove of people asking for my termination? Last time I checked he was running for presidency as an American, not an African American?
4. I did not say it was the Jigaboos against the wanna bees on my radio show, it was my Bush Master eyebrows doing the talking.
5. Why don't THESE people understand, I am not racist?

HOWARD MCCULLOUGH

GOOD MORNING
BY DEVRON HENRY MR IMUS!



HI! HOW ARE YOU!

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

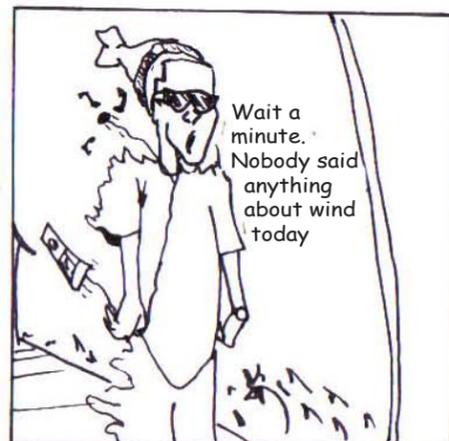
A HOE

WHAT COLOR?

BLACK!



! ?
SAY
WHAT?
!



BY JOSHUA RICHARDSON

Joshua Richardson

CAMPUS NEWS

KEYS FOR SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS

BY ANTONIO
MARIN-DIETENS

Dr. Deborah Curry, Counselor at the University's Counseling and Career Development Center, held an event on March 27 titled: "How to have a Successful Relationship". Her lecture was based on a study conducted by Ph.D. John M. Gottman, who researched the topic, "What makes marriages fail and what makes them succeed?"

During her presentation, Dr. Curry mentioned the seven relationship myths which included, personality problems ruin marriages, common interests keep people together, you scratch my back and avoiding conflict will ruin your marriage.

The real dangers in a relationship are criticism, contempt, defensiveness, and stonewalling. These dangers are also identified by Dr. Gottman as the "Four horsemen of the Apocalypse". He defines criticism as a danger because he claims that it attacks the individual directly.

During the discussion, it was also noted that contempt is the best predictor of divorce. Dr. Curry said, "Contempt includes name-calling, sneering, mockery, and hostile humor. It

just poisons a relationship because it conveys disgust".

The third horseman of the Apocalypse is defensiveness. This third danger "does not usually help the attacking spouse to back down or apologize. Instead, the defending party usually reverses the blame, creating a no-win scenario," she said.

The last obstacle for a successful relationship is stonewalling. This concept refers to an emotionally overwhelmed partner that tunes out and sits passively without saying a word or acknowledging his spouse.

Several dangers can ruin an individual's relationship, but what can turn a relationship into a successful love story? Dr. Curry explained that the first principle for making marriage work is to enhance the part of the brain where the information about the partner's world is stored. "People have to learn and discuss each other's goals, worries, and hopes."

She also added that "creating shared meaning, nurturing fondness and admiration, overcome gridlock, and solving solvable problems" can improve a couple's relationship and turn a marriage into a successful love story.

UDC HOSTS WOMEN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 'FROM CAMPUS TO CONGRESS'

BY CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

On Saturday, March 24 and Sunday, March 25, the Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) hosted a National Young Women's Leadership Conference: From Campus to Congress at the University of the District of Columbia. Over 375 feminist students from 36 campuses across the country assembled at the University to learn about and discuss the importance of leadership, global and domestic issues, and the Women's Rights movement. Participants were encouraged and inspired to work in their communities as leaders and to grow their leadership skills to continue the fight for women's rights and progressive change.

The conference opened in the University's Auditorium, where Dr. Janice Borlandoe, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, welcomed the attendees. FMF President and Founder Eleanor Smeal, also welcomed the crowd, giving an overview of the state of women's rights and feminist issues in the United States and across the world.

California Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey delivered the keynote speech on Saturday during lunch at the Firebird

Inn. Rep. Woolsey emphasized her legislative priorities, including bringing the war in Iraq to a swift end and promoting a better balance between work and family for Americans. Acknowledging her past as a welfare mother, Rep. Woolsey reminded the room that "one woman can make a difference."

The weekend also offered conference-goers different workshops, including campus-specific sessions (how to raise money and improve campus coalitions) and career-oriented workshops. At one workshop, women who are currently working for U.S Representatives and Senators shared their experiences as "Hill Staff," offering advice and insight into landing and working at jobs on Capitol Hill.

Sunday's program had a global focus as well, beginning with a seminar regarding women as global leaders. Speakers joined the crowd from Population Action International, the Afghan Youth Soccer League, One World Foundation, the Girl Scouts, and the United Nations Population Fund. They discussed their roles and abilities to make a difference for women across the world.

Dr. Sima Samar, Chairperson of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the U.N.'s Special Envoy to Darfur, delivered Sunday's keynote address, noting the rampant corruption in Afghanistan and the inability of women across the world to exercise basic human rights, for instance attending school.

DEVINE NINE ORGANIZATIONS WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BY ADRIAN WILKINS

Many of the Black Greek Lettered Organizations (BGLO's) have introduced new members in their organizations to the UDC community.

On March 22, the Beta Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., introduced three sisters during a probate that started at 7:22 PM. Demel D Baber, Amber Johnson, and Katrice Suggs were introduced to the community as new sisters of Sigma Gamma Rho.

On April 6 at 7:11 PM the Beta Kappa Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., welcomed two new brothers into their organization: Jamal Freeman, a math major as well as a member of the UDC Men's Basketball and Tennis teams; and history major Joshua Lopez was introduced during a probate in Dennard Plaza.

On April 8, the Beta Iota Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc. introduced nine new sisters. Those sisters are: Shannel Brockberry, Lauren Massey, Felicia Shearin, Krystal Willingham, Paula Gibbs, Lori Grimes, Eugenia Solomon, Natasha Trabue and USGA President-elect, Rina T. Daniels. Delta Sigma Theta recently just won the Sorority of the Year at the USGA Gala on Monday May 7.

Last but not least the Ladies of the Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., introduced nine new sisters in a coming out show on May 1 at 6:36 PM. The show featured the new sisters stepping with current sisters of the chapter new and current sisters introduced themselves to the crowd. New sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha are: Salecia Hines, USGA Vice President-Elect Memar Ayalew, Krysten Robertson, Andrea Moses, Mikia Wells, Sunaria "Suni" Tatum, Ashley Ramey, USGA Treasurer Karen King Cooke and Andrea Harrison.

The University of the District of Columbia welcomes all the new members to their respective organizations and look forward to working with each organization.

SIMONE TESCA BOSTIC CHOOSES TRIUMPH OVER TRAGEDY

BY WILLIAM BELL

Graduating senior Simone Tesca Bostic has survived what many women and girls face every 5.6 minutes in America and abroad, the crime of rape. Her essay "Cutlass in Water" depicts the gruesome details of her rape and triumph.

Bostic said the title of her essay comes from an old Trinidadian saying, "When you take a cutlass (machete) and scar the water it goes back smooth." Bostic couldn't let the water go back smooth she had to make waves, for her story needed to be told.

Simone Bostic a speech language pathology major with a 3.65 GPA at UDC, wants to help people with speech impediments once she gains a degree, that will have to wait though. "Since I read a part of my essay about eight women came to me, one woman whispered in my ear after the reading and said, 'you helped me'." Her candid testimony has drawn women to heal.

Author and UDC professor Marita Golden had a seminar titled "Writing is Important." Golden truly showed the audience why that statement's true as Simone Bostic captured the crowd of 50 people and took them on a journey through this most tragic event with humor then utter awe.

"Cutlass in Water" a part of the book Bostic wants published was a work of maturity, healing, and self forgiveness. "This took place 13 years ago and I'm dealing with it now, because I some what blamed myself, it's a funny thing you know," she said. Bostic spoke adamantly about her experience and how she dealt with the hurt. "I called the rape hotline and could not utter a word." The writing assignment given to her by Professor Golden helped pull back the layers of her wound and examine herself.

"It was like I was the fly on the wall taking a look at the scene as a spectator." The writing process for Bostic was strenuous for at moments it took her nights to write one scene of her

horrific circumstance. She had to go back from time to time and describe less difficult parts of the rape before she moved to the harsh.

The surprising thing is that Bostic told no one, not even her mom until the night of the seminar. Her mother was shocked and touched at the same time and has been nothing but supportive. Bostic explained, "I did not want my mother heart broken, I was in Trinidad and she was in the US." Courage permeated her inner core while this heart wrenched episode unfolded in the drama called life.

Just to think this radiant young woman would not have been here to share her victorious story if it weren't for her spirit of adventure. "My father thinks I'm crazy," Simone laughed. She came from Port-of-Spain, Trinidad to the United States after breaking both legs on a horse. Initially she was supposed to take her place in police academy there. While she lived in New Jersey she asked a friend, "You ever been to DC? Let's go now. I

got on the I95 and came to stay with my aunt and never went back." Her daring blazed the way for her family. She was the first to partake in an education at UDC. Now Bostic attends UDC with her whole support cast of her fiancé, mother, brother, and aunt are all part of the UDC family.

Though Bostic doesn't find much time to write these days while working on graduating; another essay of hers will be featured in an anthology put together by Marita Golden. The most important message Bostic wants to convey to raped and battered women is that they are part of a large secret society and there are a lot more, people than you think in the same situation. Seek support from family, friends, someone. "Whatever doesn't kill you, makes you stronger, I'm still here," Bostic said.

SPORTS WITH ADRIAN

Alexander, Smallwood and Shaw Named to All-ICAA Basketball Teams

BY ADRIAN WILKINS

Three basketball players at the University of the District of Columbia have been selected to the All-Independent College Athletic Association's (ICAA) Division II teams. Ashley Alexander, a member of the Lady Firebirds Basketball Team was named to the All-ICAA Division II Women's 2nd Team, while Charlie Smallwood and Willie Shaw were named to the All-ICAA Men's 2nd and 3rd Teams, respectively. Selection to All-ICAA Teams is the highest recognition awarded by independent schools to players who had stand out performances on the court during a particular season.

Ashley Alexander, a junior guard from Washington, DC that averaged 12.3 points, 6 rebounds and 2.29 steals per game during the 2006-07 season. Alexander was the highest scorer in 12 Lady Firebird games this season, scoring as high as 26 points in one game.

UDC Women's Head Coach Lester L. Butler, Jr., said "I am extremely happy for Ashley, she has worked very hard this year to improve her game, and

I am looking forward to her having a great senior campaign during the 2007-08 season."

Charlie Smallwood, a junior guard from Palmer Park, MD, averaged 15.6 points, 4.3 rebounds, and 1.36 steals per game to lead the Firebirds to a 20-9 season record, which is the highest number of games won by a Firebird team since 1982. He was nationally ranked among NCAA Division II schools this season, ranked 76th in three-point field goals, and 78th in three-point field goal percentage.

Willie Shaw is a junior forward from Alexandria, Virginia who averaged 14.1 points and 9.3 rebounds per game this season. Shaw was also nationally ranked among Division II schools 9th in field-goal percentage, and 29th in rebounds per game.

UDC Head Men's Basketball Coach, Julius L. Smith, Jr. said that he is elated about the selection of both Smallwood and Shaw to the All-IACC teams and looks forward to another great season from them next year.

UDC SCHOLAR-ATHLETES HONORED AT PRESIDENT'S BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

BY ADRIAN WILKINS

On April 6, the Athletic Department of the University of the District of Columbia honored the student athletes who have a Grade Point Average of 3.0 and above. Overall 40 athletes were honored. UDC President, Dr. continue their education after graduating from the University of the District of Columbia and posed the question, "After graduation, then what?"

April 6 was also designated as National Student-Athlete Day to recognize the accomplishments of students who excel in the classrooms, on the playing fields and in their communities. National Student-Athlete Day was created by the National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS) and the Northeastern University Center for the Study of Sport in Society, in partnership with the NCAA and the National Federation of State High School Associations.

The lists of scholar-athletes are as follows:

Men's Cross Country
Jeffery Zulu
Ewonou Azia Konou
Roland Kamdem

Men's Soccer
Pidenam Bodjona
Edwin Bonilla
Ebrima Danso
Kapalabwe Karma
Roland Kamdem
Nersa Looky-Djobo
Togba Liberty
Boyan Yankulov
Terrence Allyene
Nicola Santagata
Serigne Mbow

Men's Basketball
Justin Walker
Rasheed Cole
Antwon Hawkins
Phillip Nguema
Frank Petersen

Men's Tennis
Festus Okoya
Vicente Caballero

Women's Cross Country/Track and Field
Danielle Cook
Ericka Cook
Anene Wynn
Narissa Eve
Patricia Ofori

Women's Basketball

Tiffany Church
Narissa Eve
Ashley Alexander
Robin Williams

Women's Volleyball
Laila Benjamin
Whitney Cloud
Dhalia Pierre
Arielle Fox
Julia Da Silva
Daniella Becerra

Women's Tennis
Enriza Peterson-Paul
Patricia Ofori

IN MEMORY OF V.A. TECH,

from page 1

were in need of counseling after the tragedy.

A moment of silence was taken in remembrance of the 33 lives lost and all those affected within the Virginia Tech community. During the afternoon vigil, a prayer was led by campus minister Jennifer Merrill as the American flag was brought down to half-mast.

Those at the vigil were able to hear from a Virginia Tech student Thomas Williams via loudspeaker telephone interview. Williams, who is the chapter president of Phi Beta Sigma, said he was on his way to class in the very building where the shootings occurred on what seemed to be a "regular Monday morning," but was stopped by a group of friends who had informed him of what was happening.

During the call, Thomas said that everyone at Virginia Tech was "sticking together," and thanked the University for their support and prayers.

J. Michael Andrews, Senior Director of Communications and Alumni Affairs attended the somber gathering, and expressed his individual connection to the Virginia Tech community. "I have a niece that goes to Virginia Tech and we were all relieved when we got the e-mail saying she was okay."

As reported, communication at Virginia Tech between the administration and students, faculty and staff, did not run smoothly. The cellular phone towers near the campus were over-flooded and crashed, enabling any telephone communication between those on or around the campus to get in touch with family and friends.

With this issue of communication on college campuses looming in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech tragedy, the University is currently looking into ways that, in the event of an emergency, the University will be able to inform the campus through a means of mass communication.

According to Andrews, the University e-mail account is supposed to be the means of mass communication between the university and its students. However, "many students don't use their UDC e-mail accounts," Andrews said.

Although it was suggested during the vigil that a campus wide public announcement system would be an effective tool in achieving instant communication, Andrews said, "Instant communication is hard and very expensive, and we just don't have the resources."

The Legends Take UDC Intramural Basketball Championship

BY ADRIAN WILKINS

It's that time of year again, where every student, teacher, coach and faculty member can lace up the shoes and show their skills on the basketball court. The Annual UDC Intramural Basketball Tournament started out with a bang and ended the same way when The Legends took the Championship in a very entertaining game against 30's Is The New 20's which had people such as Coach Marc Harrison, Dr. Merritt, Coach DeFelice and Coach "Skip To My Lou" Butler. The final score of the Championship Game was 38 - 27.

When asked to describe the victory in the tournament, Moe

Yeoman said, "The Legends is a Team that feels that Winning is a Team effort! The T stands for Trust, The E stands for Effort, The A stands for Achievement and The M stands for Maturity. These are the qualities that produce winners!"

Shortly before the final buzzer, Legends team members, Kojack and Koko were named Co-MVPs of the tournament. The K & K Connection as named by Coach Butch Cherry were consistent in every game they played in the tournament. The tournament featured teams from the David A Clarke Law School, as well as other teams featuring Student Representative to the Board of Trustees, Selvon Waldron among others. To many, this was a very entertaining tournament as students, faculty, staff and coaches got to interact on a level that isn't seen in the classrooms and were able to have fun.

If you missed this year's Intramural Tournament, there's always next year, and it already promises to be bigger, better and even more entertaining.



University of the District of Columbia
Intramural Basketball Champions

HBCU UPDATES

HOWARD UNIVERSITY FIRST HBCU TO DIVEST FROM SUDAN

BY NARISSA PETERSON-PAUL

Howard's Board of Trustees voted recently to cut off all ties with companies doing business in the war-torn African nation of Sudan. Harvard University started the movement to divest in 2004 and Howard has become the first HBCU to follow in the trend. Divestment campaigns demand that universities comb through their endowments and portfolio and sell off any investments in companies, banks or governments doing business with the offending nation. Students from many universities including Yale have researched corporations and contacted the CIA to compile lists of companies with dealings with Sudan. The reports were then brought to the board of trustees at their respective schools.

Since then, dozens of universities have joined in the divestment effort but HBCU's are slow to respond. Sudan has dealt with crippling corruption and mismanagement that has

squandered much of their natural wealth. This has led to fighting between tribes over food, land, water and millions in international aid. The government is accused of committing mass murder and rape. In the last three years, an estimated 2 million people have been displaced, and between 200,000 and 400,000 people have died.

NEXT ISSUE: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you have questions, concerns, or opinions about your University social or academic environment? The Editors at Trilogy will try to have answers. Send your questions or comments to us at trilogy@udc.edu.

STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

BY ERIK PINSONNAULT

The University of the District of Columbia's David A. Clarke School of Law underwent a student administration change. The Student Bar Association (SBA), the School of Law's student government organization, recently held its yearly elections. The presidential election was hotly contested. After a request by senator and unsuccessful presidential candidate Mazi Ucheomumu, the SBA refused to release the vote distribution from the election. Ucheomumu (1L), who questioned the transparency of the election, ran on a platform of higher bar passage rates, securing high profile visiting speakers, and more jobs for University Law graduates in the pro bono sections of large law firms.

Molly Hoffman (1L), Ibidun Salaam (1L), and Yancey Burns (2L) rounded out the slate of candidates for SBA president in 2007. The is-

issues addressed by the candidates included whether the bar passage rate of UDC Law graduates is actually a problem, higher-paying jobs for UDC-DCSL students, and the outlook of the school. While a number of positions remain vacant, some of the key positions decided in the election included:

President: Alejandro Soto-Vigil (2L)
Vice President: Melanie Acuna (1L)
Parliamentarian: Acklyn Murray (1L)
Chair of Academic Support: Sam Kanupp (2L)
Chair of Student Support Services: Jennifer Humes (1L)

In-state Tuition for Immigrants Would Take Seats From Black Students

BY NARISSA PETERSON-PAUL

Emmett Burns, a veteran member of Maryland's Legislative Black Caucus expressed opposition to a bill that would provide in-state college tuition rates for illegal immigrants. Burns said the bill is unfair to those immigrants trying to enter the U.S. legally. There are limited seats,

and African Americans are unrepresented proportionally in those college seats. Burns feels that offering a benefit to illegal immigrants is wrong.

Maybe Law Students Should Watch TV

BY ERIK PINSONNAULT

On Wednesday, April 4, approximately 24 University School of Law (UDC-DCSL) students attended a Communications Law Panel assembled by first-year law student (1L) and cultural philosopher, Liz Crow.

Daniel Alvarez, an associate at the law firm Willkie, Farr & Gallagher, moderated the panel of two additional communications lawyers working for law firms and one lawyer from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The panelists discussed many topics such as the FCC's definition of obscenity, media consolidation, and the FCC's role in cell phone contracts with early termination fees (one panelist expects that early termination fees will eventually disappear).

The panelists accepted every student question at this remarkably interactive event. Some inquired about how to become a communications lawyer, especially because UDC-DCSL does not offer communications law classes. Two of the panelists studied at Catholic University's Institute of Communications Law Studies, but the others emphasized that communications law classes are not necessary to a career in the field. Alvarez, the moderator, discussed the importance of internships in the communications law field to avoid looking like just another "schmoe who need(s) a job" after law school. He also advised against shyness, encouraging students to send out as many resumes as possible in the absence of any real connection to a job.

What the students really wanted to know, however, was what currently goes on at the FCC. The panelists admit that the FCC is undeniably political - its agenda changes as the administration changes. Nonetheless, it reviews every complaint - whether by an individual or a powerful lobby group like the Parents' Television Council - for legitimacy, according to the FCC lawyer. In response to a question about the less-than-user-friendly FCC website, the panelist said the agency is currently working on making it easier for the public to lodge complaints.

"Rez Ball" Gains NCAA Status

BY NARISSA PETERSON-PAUL

The NCAA has officially recognized "Rez Ball" as being a certified tournament. The Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) has recently become the first Native American basketball competition to receive such status. Previously, NCAA rules required that athletes within a team reside in the same state as a given tournament. The new ruling gives Native American high school athletes to gain NCAA consideration.

The new ruling will also allow college coaches and scouts to attend the tournament at the U.S. Airways Center in Phoenix in July and national attention from colleges that can provide scholarships for students. Nationally, Native Americans represent less than 1 percent of students attending four-year colleges. Only 51 American Indians have ever played on Division I teams.

JAIL OR JUSTICE FOR THE YOUTH?

BY ERIK PINSONNAULT

On April 2, many people were filled with dismay when they learned that the District of Columbia would lose an effective alternative to the incarceration of D.C.'s adolescents. Budgetary concerns threaten the demise of the Time Dollar Youth Court Program, a program that diverts youths charged with crimes from D.C. Superior Court to a court comprised of fellow youth offenders. At Youth Court, advocate judges are volunteers; some of whom are students at the University's David A. Clarke School of Law (UDC-DCSL), and the jurors are juveniles who have volunteered or offered jury service as atonement for their misdeeds.

Statistics show that the recidivism rate for Youth Court's respondents is 13 percent, compared to 30 percent for those juveniles processed through D.C.'s justice system. A Youth Court participant said, "I will never be arrested again because of what I am learning from this experience." The Youth Court diversionary program, founded by Dr. Edgar Cahn (also the founder of UDC-DCSL), saves the District an estimated \$685,000 per year, or around \$9,000 per child. More impor-

tantly, Youth Court substantially impacts the lives of the children, their families, and the community in a positive way. As of January 1, over 420 youths have successfully completed the program which has an 85 percent success rate.

The adolescents who have gone through program attest to its value. "When I was cuffed and arrested," one Youth Court Respondent wrote "I could see each face I passed judging me, sizing me up, as if they really knew me...youth court [gave] me a chance to explain me beyond the circumstances that got me here."

The Time Dollar Youth Court fosters peer-mediated justice, collective teaching, and genuine understanding. Unlike youths incarcerated in the district, those who benefit from Youth Court truly profit and seek the continuation of the program. One respondent said, "I hope this program spans for years and decades to come. Maybe our community will then begin to (embrace) the motto of: 'It takes a village to raise a child.'"

Another respondent said, "Without Youth Court, no one would get a second

chance." If the program cannot secure additional funding, adolescents who could benefit from the Youth Court experience will be sent back to the referring agencies- Metropolitan Police Department, D.C. Public Schools, or Court Social Services. While no one can be certain what will happen to the youths in these systems, it is unlikely that they will come back with stories like this one, as one juror wrote, "This program helped me out a lot, because I'm actually doing better in school. I don't use drugs anymore. And I've also become better, ever since I've started this program."

If no one is able to provide Youth Court with funding, it will be closed on April 17. The directors urge all concerned parties contact their council members and newly-elected Mayor Adrian Fenty.

The King can Find Your Castle!



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