

Special Orientation Edition: Welcome New Firebirds!

POLLARD LEAVES STUDENT FRIENDLY LEGACY

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**BY RA-JAH KELLY
EDITOR -IN-CHIEF**

This summer the leadership at the University of the District of Columbia began transition with the June 30 resignation of its President William Pollard. The unexpected departure left many faculty, student, and staff shocked and disappointed as was evidenced at Pollard's emotional farewell ceremony.

During the July event several of the University's former and current students and faculty wept openly as speeches were made and parting gifts were presented to the popular former president. In an interview with Washington Informer Staff writer Taaq Kirksey,

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Mr. and Mrs. William Pollard at his farewell ceremony in July. Photo by Howard McCoullough

Financial Aid: Who And What You Need To Know



Acting Director of Financial Aid William Parker.
Photo by Howard McCoullough

**BY HOWARD MCCOULLOUGH
ADVERTISING MANAGER**

For many students the process of applying for and receiving financial aid can be difficult. While financial aid counselors are here to assist students can help themselves by having necessary information before meeting with their counselors.

First and foremost students need to have their Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) forms filled out correctly and sent in by the due date for full access to financial aid resources. If you are having trouble filling out your FAFSA form, you can receive assistance at the financial aid office on campus in Bldg. 39, Room 106 or from the college board at www.collegeboard.com

Financial aid information can be found on the Internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov and also at www.udc.edu. Students are advised to read the instructions very carefully after filing for financial aid and receiving confirmation that the school has received your information, find out your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and know the name of your financial aid counselor by logging on to www.udc.edu and then click on the financial aid link. All advisors are assigned to students by the first letter of the stu-

See FINANCIAL AID page 2

**CONT'D
FINANCIAL AID**

“Our main objective is to find a means for our student’s education, to focus on getting their financial aid issues done right the first visit they have with us,” said Acting Director of financial aid Willis Parker. “Customer Service for the students is top priority, we are here for the students.” According to Parker and Assistant Director of financial aid Claudette Clair, the financial aid office will be increasingly proactive this fall semester by striving to minimize the long wait in line.

By emphasizing the importance of filling out the FAFSA form correctly the first time, there will be no need to make repetitive visits to the financial aid office resulting in frustration. “We encourage students to register early on line and

be more proactive, it prevents stress for the students and faculty.”

“We expect students to be more proactive with registration and utilizing email to contact their counselors with inquiries about their financial aid”. Students can find out exactly what they need from their counselor by emailing or giving them a call, said Clair who after 19 believes it’s what she was born to do.

“I would like to see students use scholarships services,” said Parker. There are many scholarships available for students that go unapplied for, if a student applies for a scholarship and does not meet the standards, the standards are reduced so it may be awarded. According to Parker, follow up is key in applying for scholarships, “Don’t let rejection get you down,” he said.

Rejection should absolutely never dictate your scholar-

ship pursuit. Financial aid information websites that include scholarships are - www.ed.gov, www.fastweb.com, www.finaid.org, www.seo.dc.gov, (this particular website is for DC residents only in regards to financial aid,) www.princetonreview.com, www.collegenet.com, www.collegeboard.com, and www.gmsp.com. (The Gates Millennium Scholarship)

Unlike student loans with interest rates, scholarships do not have to be repaid hence they are truly an excellent source of financial aid.

Hopefully, this information will help decrease the stress and frustration felt by both students and staff this fall and semesters beyond.

CONT'D POLLARD

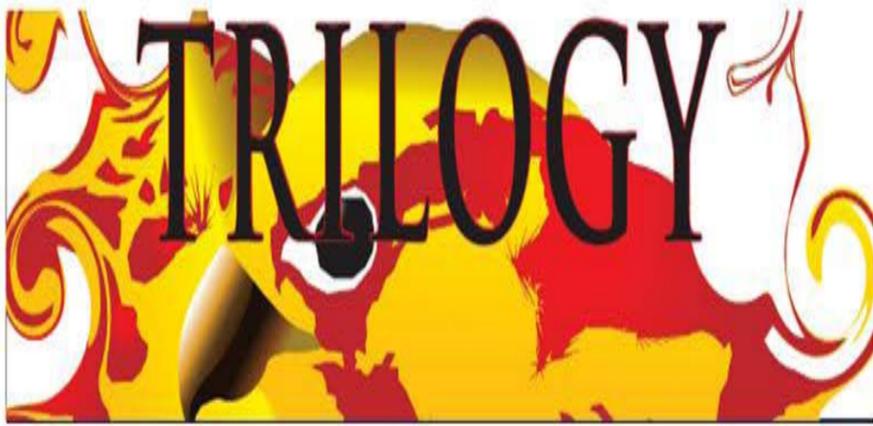
senior Class President William Kellibrew made it clear why the strong emotions were on display during Pollard’s farewell. “For a long time, students and faculty and administration have not always seen eye to eye,” Kellibrew said. “For a brief moment in time, we had support from the administration.”

While Pollard seemed confident that his legacy would be assured. “We take comfort in the fact that the University is in a better place than it was when we arrived.” he said in a message released to the University. He also pointed to his desire to create a “student centered university” and the establishment of a counseling center as points of pride.

Although it’s been speculated that the Board of Trustees was influential in Pollard’s departure members of the boards also seemed to have nothing but well wishes and positive feelings for Pollard. “Dr. Pollard’s contributions have played an important role in bringing the University to a level of stability and advancement,” said the board chairman James W. Dyke, Jr.. “On behalf

of the entire Board of Trustees, we are grateful to Dr. Pollard for his energy and his impact on the District of Columbia, its students and its citizens. We wish him success on this new phase of his career.”

Pollard’s resignation leaves the university in search of a leader. In order to facilitate the appointment of a new university president The Board of Trustee’s has created a Transition Advisory Group. Members of the group include Floretta McKenzie, former D.C. schools superintendent, Ronald Williams, former Prince Georges County Community College President, and Alvin Schexnider, former Norfolk State University Interim President. Until their search is completed Senior Vice President for Operations and Chief of Staff Stanley Jackson will serve as Acting President. As Pollard looked forward to new challenges he reflected thusly, “In the words of the old spiritual, ‘may the words I’ve done speak for me.’ Merriette [his wife] and I believe that the legacy we leave is one of hope. It is a legacy we believe that reflects the University as a place where a new day is a new opportunity.”



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A Concrete Rose: Miss UDC Danielle Matthews

**BY SELVON WALDRON
MANAGING EDITOR**

Have you ever heard the story about the rose that grew from the concrete? Well, Danielle Matthews, that rose, added another chapter to her story when she was crowned Miss University of the District of Columbia on Wednesday, April 4th, 2007.

At the Miss University of the District of Columbia pageant, Matthews competed against 10 other hopeful queens, but overall her talent, poise and response during the intelligence round ultimately won her the privilege of wearing the crown - a privilege that comes with great honor and responsibility. Matthews' achievement at the Miss UDC pageant reflects her continued determination to blossom at UDC. "I decided to run for the position of Miss University of the District of Columbia because I wanted to expose myself to new experiences, I wanted to show people that I could be an effective leader," said Matthews. Life for her has been no crystal stair but she sites her mother as her icon and main inspiration for competing in the Miss UDC pageant. "She has been through a lifetime of struggle but has always persevered and came through."

Matthews, who describes herself as persistent, determined, and a lot of fun, is indeed a

warm personality and a focused ambassador of the University of the District of Columbia.

On the list of things that she is passionate about, dancing takes precedence. "It [dancing] is what I love to do, it is the only thing that makes me happy and keeps a smile on my face," she said. Matthews is also geared towards her dream of one day becoming a seasoned film actress. The last good book that this Theatre Arts major read was the James Hatch compilation titled, "Black Theatre USA: A Collection of Plays by African Americans from 1847 - today."

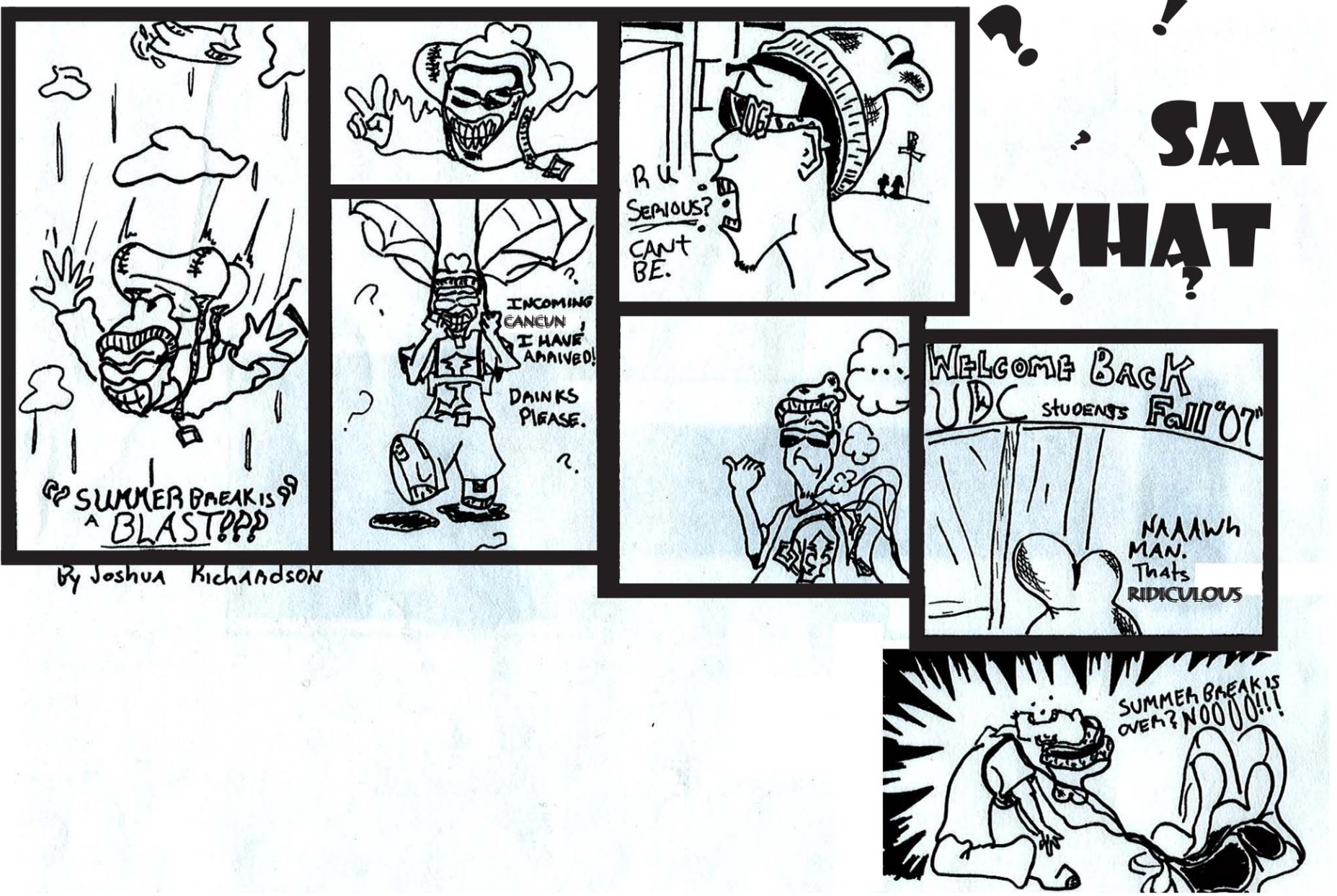
Matthews hopes to become an inspiration to students and wants to develop a closer relationship with more students on campus. With a solid platform, Miss UDC 2007-2008 has etched her name into the

history of the University of the District of Columbia's alongside other strong female ambassadors. Matthews closed, "I want people to remember me, like a concrete rose that saw the sunlight through the crack and bloomed into something beautiful and brought joy to all."



Danielle Matthews competing and being crowned in the Miss UDC pageant.

All Photos by Ray Henderson



By Joshua Richardson



**BY SELVON WALDRON
MANAGING EDITOR**

Finally, you have arrived. Amid constant peer pressure – family, friends – you have arrived. For some, you are a world away from home, for others home feels close. Finally, you have arrived at the University of the District of Columbia, but... Firebirds, are you ready.

Welcome Class of 2011

the District of Columbia was granted home rule (1975), the new University of the District of Columbia was born.

Today, indeed, demonstrates the inevitability of change that we cherish here at “Our Glorious UDC” and once again highlights the University’s ordained theme:- “A New Day A New Opportunity.”

As you pursue an understanding and knowledge of the world that encompass us, and as you meticulously interact with the campus, I challenge you not to confine yourself to routine.

sion services, also serves the District of Columbia through its numerous community ventures. This institution has produced the likes of Denise G. Antoine, Ambassador of Grenada to the United States; Dr. Portia Holmes Shields, President of Albany State University; Clarence Holbert, designer of the currency of Eritrea; and Jeffrey E. Thompson, C.E.O of Thompson, Cobb, Bazilio and Associates.

‘Education is a companion which no misfortune can depress, no crime can destroy, no enemy can alienate, no despotism can enslave. At home – a friend, abroad – an introduction, in solitude – solace, and in society an ornament. It chastens vice, it guides virtue, it gives at once grace and government to genius. Without education, what is man? A splendid slave, a reasoning savage.’

— Joseph Addison

While the University of the District of Columbia has been a part of the educational fabric of Washington for many years, its vigor continues to depend on a vibrant interaction between past and present, between customs and change, and between the experienced opinions and artifacts of years past and the modern ideas and innovations of the present. The university was founded by Myrtilla Miner in 1851 as a school for colored girls. In 1955, a Supreme Court decision to desegregate schools combined Miner’s Teachers College and Wilson Teachers College to form the District of Columbia Teachers College. A Public Education Act enacted in 1966 established Federal City College and Washington Technical Institute; both schools over time grew to be a reservoir of education to District of Columbia residents. In 1974, the District of Columbia Teachers College and Federal City College was placed under a single president. Then in 1976, after

I encourage you to be a part of the many programs and activities available on the campus. The opportunities are endless here at the university; there are over fifty active clubs, organizations, and honor societies that you could participate in. Become a part of the University by volunteering your time and talent to the many programs and activities that go on everyday. Become the voice of your class by participating in the Student Government Association’s activities as a Senator or class representative. The Executive Council and Staff of the Student Government Association are available and accessible to guide you through your learning experience.

Take advantage of your greatest opportunity here at the University of the District of Columbia – the Academic wealth of this institution. The university has 75 undergraduate and graduate degree programs and the Division of Community Outreach and Exten-

And, USA Today also named the University of the District of Columbia one of the top 10 Division II schools in the country for improvement of the graduation rate for its student athletes. Are you ready to be a part of history, are you ready to create your own history.

Your decision today to attend this university will allow you to reap the benefits for the rest of your life. College is a gift; accept your prize and you will not be disappointed. Welcome class of 2011.

‘Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.’

— Malcolm X

The University of the
District
of
Columbia



A Pledge for All I Can Be at UDC

The University of the District of Columbia is an academic community that is committed to education, scholarship and the overall development of the individual. As a member of the University of the District of Columbia community, I take great pride in being part of this institution’s great history and promising future where standards of good practice are honored and promoted in the Code of Student Conduct.

As I enter UDC, I pledge nothing less and much more.

I pledge my head to better thinking.
I pledge my eyes to envision a brighter future.

I pledge my heart to myself, school, community and peers.

I pledge my mouth to speak with intelligence.

I pledge my feet a straight successful path.

I pledge my hands to greater skills.
I pledge brains to attain a higher goal.
This I pledge as I leave and achieve my degree.

I, (state your name), accept the challenges of being a future graduate of the University of the District of Columbia and all the responsibilities thereafter for the benefit of myself, my family, my community and alma mater.

I am a member of the University of the District of Columbia family!

I am a Firebird!

Written by the 2007 graduating class during Freshman Orientation.



Trilogy Classified Ads

The Trilogy team will be adding a classified ads section during the new school year. Ads will be accepted regarding the sale or request of items, employment, housing, and general announcements.

If you would like to run a classified advertisement, please contact Howard McCullough in regards to rates by email at trilogy@udc.edu or by phone at 202-274-5574.

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Compassion for all is the key to peace at home and in the world...

**BY VIJAYA L. MELNICK, PH.D.,
PROF EMERITUS & DIRECTOR,
OFFICE OF SPONSORED RE-
SEARCH AND PROGRAMS.**

On April 16, 2006, we in the United States witnessed yet another tragedy brought about by an unspeakable massacre within the halls of an educational institution. As other such events before, it was hard to connect the place and the event. Schools, colleges and universities take pride in their open and welcoming environments. We don't usually associate them with violent fields of mayhem.

At Virginia Tech, within those few moments the world, as they knew it, had changed.

Several TV channels reported the events, as they went from bad to horrible, thus drawing the nation to vicariously live the terrible atrocity as it unfolded. It is hard to imagine the tremendous pain and anxiety that the parents and relatives of the students and faculty must have experienced during this time, not knowing the fate of their dear ones. I am a mother of a son who had gone away to college, and I know what would have been my state of mind had something like this happened at his college when he was a student there. Other campuses and students around the country were gripped by fear and concern for their peers at Virginia Tech, as well as for themselves. They communicated by internet, held vigils and raised funds, not knowing what to do, but were convinced that they must collectively participate in some way and take some action.

We continue to talk of the tremendous trauma this tragedy has wrought, to us as a people. There is no time than when faced with great tragedies, or overwhelming crises, that a people come together. It happened when the Twin Towers fell, when Katrina destroyed a large swath of land and its people, when President Kennedy was assassinated.

The massacre of innocent victims perpetrated by a lone gunman or suicide bombers create a devastation of un-

told proportions, for it ripples through the land to claim other victims such as family, friends and even those who were never connected, prior to such an event. We read of such massacres almost every day, of suicide bombers, of car bombs and truck bombs. We treat these as every day events and do not dwell much on their consequences or their victims. For example, in one day 178 people were reported to have died in four places in Baghdad, Iraq recently, by the action of suicide bombers. Imagine these victims and their families who have no where to turn. Their hospitals and morgues are overwhelmed beyond capacity. Their homes, schools, hospitals, market places, job recruiting places, and police stations are all vulnerable to such attacks. Women, children and men die, without regard, and are maimed for life. Physicians, teachers businessmen and others who have the opportunity are leaving Iraq in droves, making conditions even more dire for those who remain. The country is spiraling into civil strife and civil war.

Our soldiers, who return from this unforgiving battle with mental and physical injuries must, at the very least, be assured of a warm and welcoming home here. How we care for them and cater to their needs is the evidence of our gratitude and respect for the tremendous risks they have taken, the sacrifices they have made, and the injuries and losses they and their families have suffered, on the nation's and our behalf.

Indeed, the world has become a very violent place. There are no oceans or borders that will keep such violence away, and we are all vulnerable to it. The only lesson that we can, and must, learn from all this is that we are duty bound to treat everyone with the same concern and compassion. For all lives are precious and valuable. Unless and until we learn to do that, we will simply move from tragedy to tragedy, achieving neither peace nor security, here at home or in the world.

HIP HOP THERAPY

**BY DAVID GASTON
STAFF WRITER**

VERSE 1

I WROTE THIS FOR MY BROTHER/ WE
HAVEN'T TALKED IN AWHILE
I'M TALKING ABOUT MY BROTHER FROM
MY MOTHERS SIDE/ HER SECOND CHILD
AS THE OLDEST SON/ I WISH I COULD HAVE
HELD HIM CLOSER
BUT I WAS ONLY FIVE AND MY LIFE WAS
LIKE A ROLLERCOASTER/
SCARED TO HOLD HIM/ HARD TO CONSOLE

HIM/ WE LIVED IN THE SAME HOUSE AND I
SWEAR TO GOD I DIDN'T KNOW HIM
I AIN'T TRYING TO PUT IT ALL ON HIM
BUT THE FIGHTS BETWEEN US/ NEVER
LASTED FOR DAYS/ BUT CARRIED ON FOR
MONTHS
YEARS AND THESE TEARS THAT IM
SHEADING/ AS I REMINISCE/ I CAN'T FORGET
HIM/ SOMEBODY GO AND GET HIM/ AND
WHEN YOU FIND HIM/ LET HIM/ KNOW THAT
I STILL LOVE HIM/ WE SHARE THE SAME
BLOOD AND LOVE FOR THE SAME MOTHER

CHORUS 2x
YOU KNOW WHAT PAIN IS, I KNOW THAT
PAIN TOO
BUT THAT PAIN OF LIFE, IS THAT GAME OF
LIFE
SO WHAT YOU GONNA DO?

VERSE 2

TO MY BABY SISTER/ I MISS YOU
BUT IT WAS REALLY HARD FOR/
ME TO BOTHER WITH THAT HATRED FOR
YOUR FATHER/
HOW DOES A BIG BROTHER TELL HIS BABY
SISTER THAT/
HE'S NOT TRYING TO BE AROUND WHERE
YOUR DADDY AT/
YOU KNOW THE REASONS!

SPRING HE MIGHT SMILE/ SUMMER SWEAT
FROWN/ WINTER GOT COLD/ FALL FELL...OH
WELL/ HE'S FINALLY CAUGHT!!!/ NOW THAT
CHILD MOLESTER CAN ROT IN JAIL
IT REALLY HURT ME WHEN I HEARD YOU
WENT FOSTER CARE/ I'M ONLY SIXTEEN
AND I CAN'T GET YOU OUT OF THERE.
I'M FEELING LIKE MY WHOLE FAMILY IS
FALLING APART/
MOMS DRINKING/ SMOKING CRACK/
MONKEY ON HER BACK/
I'M JUST A KID TRYING TO BE A MAN/
GETTING TEASED IN HIGHSCHOOL CAUSE
MOMS OUT PANHANDLING
BUT IF SHE WASN'T/ THEN WE WASN'T
EATING
IT WASN'T NOTHING SWEET/ I WEIGHD MY
OPTIONS/ AT THAT POINT/
I CHOSE THE STREETS.

REPEAT CHORUS

I PLAN ON WINNING AT THIS GAME OF LIFE/
YEAH, I'M GOING TO WIN

VERSE 3

AND TO MY BABY DAUGHTER/ I LOVE YA/
DESPITE THE DIFFERENCES WITH YOUR
MOTHER/
I BOUGHT YOU THIS CELL PHONE/ SO YOU
DON'T HAVE TO WONDER/
MY LOVE FOR YOU IS UNCONDITIONAL/ NO

OTHER/
KNOWING THE FACT THAT I CAN'T STAND
TO SHAKE MY FATHERS HAND/ I TAKE PRIDE
IN PARENTING/
SO TO YOUR MOTHER'S NEW MAN/ I KNOW
YOU LIVE IN MY DAUGHTERS HOUSE/ BUT
I'M HER DAD/ I'M HER FATHER FIGURE/ NO

DRUGS OR LIQUOR/ I'M HER MAN
BUT I AIN'T MAD/ I UNDERSTAND HER
MOTHER'S FAMILY PLAN/
BUT MAN TO MAN/ DON'T EVER RAISE YOUR
HAND TO MAKE HER SAD/
PACK YOUR THINGS AND KEEP IT MOVING

BEFORE YOU THINK OF THAT/
RESPECT TO ALL OF MY FELLOW STUDENTS/
THAT ARE ON THEIR COMEBACK
REMEMBER/ IT'S NOT WHERE YOU COME
FROM/ ITS WHERE YOU AT
AND RIGHT NOW/ I'M ON THE TOP OF THE
WORLD

I HAVE MY COLLEGE DEGREE/ I HAVE A JOB/
AND MY BABY GIRL/ SHE IS LOOKING SO

SWEET TO ME
THIS IS MY REAL TALK TO ALL OF YA'LL
IF YOU CAN SURVIVE YOUR PAST/YOU ARE

READY TO BE THE BEST HERE AT UDC

GOOD LUCK!

I on DC: Restaurant and Bar Etiquette

BY RA-JAH KELLY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



In the coming months a new Trilogy section called "I on D.C." will highlight some of the freshest and most interesting restaurants, clubs, events and social scenes in the Greater Metropolitan area. Of course, when entering a new environment one of the keys to having a good time is making sure you know the rules and how to conduct yourself. So the following are a list of do's and don'ts.

The number one do is to be positive and respectful regardless of the environment or the circumstances. There are several

obvious reasons for this rule, including, but not limited to the fact that your experience in a restaurant club, or other social environment isn't controlled by your hosts alone. Also important to consider is that servers, bartenders and club employees usually have a long memory, if you're disrespectful or rude the likelihood of you having a good time in that establishment, not just then, but ever, are slim to none. Which bring us to the next point, tipping...

Many people don't realize but service industry workers (servers, bartenders, ect) are paid well below the minimum wage, usually around 2.15 an hour. As such tips are what ensure they're able to make a living wage. Therefore *tipping is not optional!!!* In a restaurant where you are served the standard tip is 15% of your total check. Tipping 15% indicates that your meal has gone smoothly and the server was polite if not friendly. Anything above and beyond and the tip should increase accordingly. 20-25% means the server showed you personal attention and ensured your experience was wonderful. Now in the case of a poor experience keep in mind that servers often

aren't the cause (say in the case of under or overcooked meat or a crowded restaurant) but often bear the brunt of the criticism. If that doesn't motivate you keep in the mind that as I've already mentioned people in the service industry have long memories and you don't want the person responsible for your food thinking you're a poor tipper.

In a bar things are fairly similar to a restaurant with the exception being that bartender's standard tips are usually 20% or a dollar per drink that are 5 dollars or less. Remember going above and beyond is the best way to ensure that your drinks aren't watered down or that you're not being ignored in a crowded bar.

Finally, while tipping is a key, it is just as important is that you bring an open mind and recognize that your hosts in whatever situation are working hard to ensure you and everyone around you have a great time so relax and enjoy!

Latino Student Association to Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

By Antonio Marin-Dietens
Staff Writer

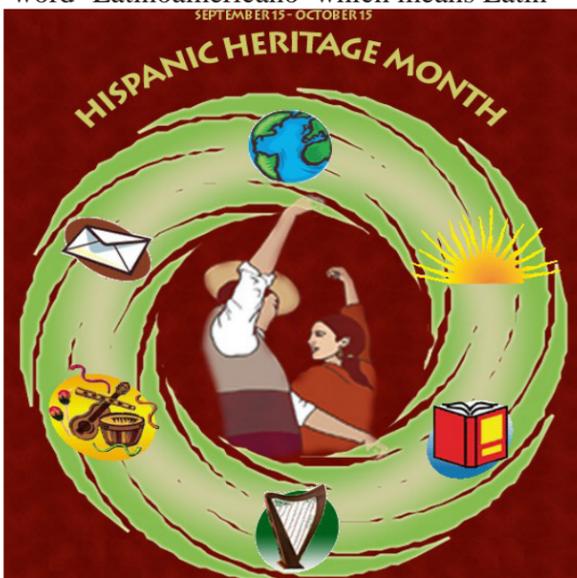
The Latino Student Association of the University of the District of Columbia will host a series of events on campus Sept. 15 – Oct. 15 in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Activities will include soccer tournaments, national dances, health awareness programs, Spanish poetry slams, and panel discussions.

The question that many students may ask themselves is, "What is the importance of Hispanic Heritage, or the importance of any heritage?" The answer to that question is very simple. Celebrations and activities occurring during the Hispanic Heritage Month promote understanding of the ethnic diversity present in the University of the District of Columbia and throughout the United States. Developing ethnic awareness fosters pride in one's culture and a respect and appreciation for the uniqueness of others.

Another reason why it is important to recognize Hispanic Heritage month on our campus is to increase the understanding of Hispanic and

Latino culture, two terms that are often used interchangeably in English but are significantly different. The term Hispanic comes from the Latin word, Hispania, which refers to the Kingdom of Spain; therefore, the term Hispanic is a common denominator for all Spanish-speaking people in the world. The term Latino is an abbreviation of the Spanish word 'Latinoamericano' which means Latin-



American. This term refers to communities that are specifically from Spanish speaking countries on the American continent.

The Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations at

the University of the District of Columbia might also clarify to many students where the link is between many Latinos and African-Americans. A large number of the Latino population can trace their roots to the Africans who were brought as slaves to the New World. Many other Hispanic Americans today trace their roots to the cultures and civilizations of the indigenous people of the Americas, such as the Maya, Aztecs, Arawaks, and the Tainos. Some even traced their roots back to the Spanish explorers who arrived in America on Oct. 12, 1492.

Celebrations during Hispanic Heritage Month are crucial as they teach people who we are, where we come from, and what we are all about.

Check out the Latino Student Association website www.udclsa.blogspot.com to keep track of the time and place of the many colorful events.



Greetings Firebirds!

Every new day presents a new opportunity to move towards successful completion of your academic and personal goals here at the University. In order to be successful, you may find a need to reach out for help in any number of areas, academic and/or extracurricular. It is my hope that you do not hesitate to look to your student government for that assistance.

Also, please spend some time getting to know about UDC's rich history and past leaders. Doing so may help you put into perspective the tasks ahead of you and develop a greater appreciation for the possibilities a UDC education provides.

I offer to each of you the following advice: Be hearty with your enthusiasm... Your energy will attract people willing and able to help you accomplish your goals. Be hopeful of positive change... Don't let setbacks discourage you from trying again and moving forward. Be happy with your progress... Small successes bring you that much closer to your ultimate goal – celebrate each one!

And don't forget to have some fun and enjoy the UDC experience. Student life is on the rise and student government looks forward to having you attend staple events like Freshmen Week (September 17-21), Homecoming Week (October 21-27) and UDC Pride Week (February 17-23). Look for more information on www.udc.edu or visit us in Building 38, Suite A-22.

Have a wonderful and productive year!

Rina T. Daniels
President, Undergraduate Student Government Association
Senior Class 2008



Welcome New Students,

As the Graduate Student Government Association President I would like to thank you for choosing to further your studies at the University of the District of Columbia. We hope to help you continue to learn and grow as you study here at the university and we know that you will be satisfied with the education that you receive when you leave here. The GSGA's preamble states that we are here to "address the concerns, represent and serve as the protectorate of the welfare of the graduate student body and of those organizations functioning to serve the needs and interest of graduate students." The members of the Graduate Student Government Association have been elected and appointed to carry out the above needs of each graduate student here at the university and we also hope that there will be others that will come and work with us so that we can make the 2007-2008 school year the greatest.

Thank You

Sharon P. Smith
President, Graduate Student Government Association



Dear New Student:

Welcome to the University of the District of Columbia!

We take great pride in being the nation's only public, urban, land-grant university with a longstanding record of being both accessible and affordable. I am delighted that you have decided to join the Firebird family and look forward to meeting you in person during your transition to university life.

The University of the District of Columbia has a rich heritage that dates back to 1851 when one of its predecessor schools was founded. Since its humble and historic beginnings, the University has graduated numerous distinguished alumni that have excelled in a host of careers and professional endeavors. I encourage you to strive to be the best in your chosen fields of study and join the ranks of our distinguished graduates.

Equally, the University of the District of Columbia's learning environment is a microcosm of our larger society. Accordingly, while matriculating at this venerable institution of higher learning, you will encounter a number of challenges. It is important for you to know that our University has a team of dedicated administrators, faculty, students, and staff who are eager to assist you in overcoming these challenges and ensuring your success.

As your new experience at UDC begins, make sure to set your goals high, work hard to reach them, and dedicate yourself to stay the course and complete your educational objectives. Again, welcome to the University and best wishes for a wonderful beginning and a meaningful and enjoyable learning experience.

Dr. Clemmie Solomon
Associate Vice President of Student Affairs



Greetings Firebirds,

Welcome to your new home. The University of the District of Columbia's vision is to prepare students to be well-educated, skillful, autonomous, service oriented, culturally enlightened, and technologically oriented citizens who are prepared to live and work in a multiethnic, global, and technologically-driven society.

I hope you will actively participate in the many opportunities the University has to offer. The University is creating a network of current and future leaders. Your choice to attend this institution is the first step in whatever goals you plan to achieve. Again, welcome to the Firebird family.

Hortense Brent
Student Representative to the Board of Trustees
Junior Class of 2009



UDC Hosts The Pigskin Club of Washington, D.C.

**BY ALFONS PRINCE
STAFF WRITER**

With the hope of bringing their organization closer to the community, the Pigskin Club of Washington, D.C. held their 70th Anniversary Founders Day Celebration on the campus of the University of the District of Columbia.

Founded by the late Dr. Charles B. Fisher, the Pigskin Club promotes the benefits derived from wholesome athletics and strives to address the problems faced as a participant in competitive sports. The event, held on July 22, had a double meaning as it sought to not only make the club more visible within the community, but it also served as a tribute to the founding fathers of the organization.

It was also a celebration for NFL Hall of Famer Willie Wood who was named honorary chairman of the event. A Washington, D.C. native, Wood played most of his career with the Green Bay Packers as a safety and was enshrined into the hall of fame in 1989. He finished with 48 career interceptions, including one in Super Bowl I that broke that game open, and played in eight Pro Bowls during his 11-year career. Having Wood there as an honorary member helped to advance the Pigskin Club's goal of being more visible in the community.

"Celebrity Chefs" prepared

the food for the event. These "chefs" included Brig Owens, one of the 70 Greatest Washington Redskins, Glenn Harris of News Channel 8, Lacey O'Neal, a two-time track and field Olympian, and Harry Thomas Jr., Ward 5 council member, among others. The "chefs" were instructed to prepare a dish for attendees to sample.



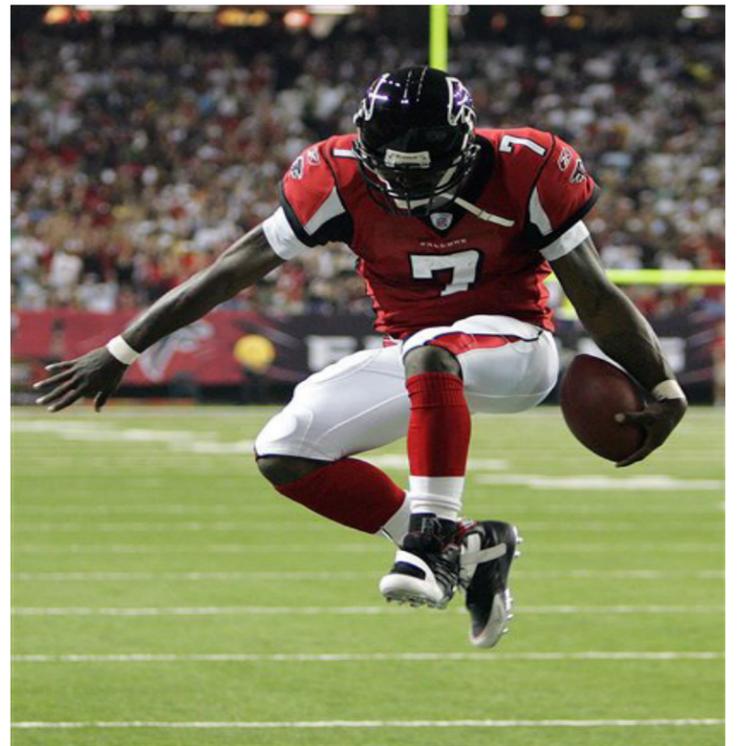
Willie Wood.
Photo Courtesy of Pro-footballhof.com

There were many different types of food to enjoy - chili, sweet potato soup, chicken and rice, collard greens and several desserts. Owens felt a reunion atmosphere and said, "It gives people a chance to network, friends get to see each other, and gather around good food." Owens continued, "Great thing is that this [event] is raising funds for the Pigskin Club." Bob Headen, member of the Pigskin Club added, "It's a reunion. I get a chance to see some guys that I haven't seen in a good little while. It also brings part of the commu-

nity together." The celebration also provided an opportunity for former and current athletes to meet some of their inspirations. Angela Washington, a star track and field competitor during the '80s from Coolidge Senior High School in DC, came to the event and ran into O'Neal. Washington said that O'Neal was an inspiration to her and that "anybody who is an Olympian and from Washington, DC is an inspiration for any youth, especially female."

That type of inspiration is what the Pigskin Club is looking to continue during the upcoming school year. They are going to hold sessions with young student athletes in local schools. These sessions will bridge the gap between the younger and older generations. The sessions also will continue to bring visibility to the Pigskin Club. Vinna Freeman, one of the first females to head the physical education department of a public school system, said, "We'll be going around to schools and meeting with teams to talk about the organization." The club's president Lucielle Hester added, "We have buzz session. They are locker room sessions. These sessions will just let them know of the opportunities that arise from sports."

With the school year approaching, this event hit its mark and is well on the way to reaching its goals.



The Agile Mike Vick.
Photo Courtesy of WordPress.com

The Mind of Michael Vick

Trilogy Staff was able to catch Vick and peer into the mind of the troubled superstar. Following are the thoughts of Vick as told to Trilogy Sports.

Top 5 things Michael Vick is asking himself.

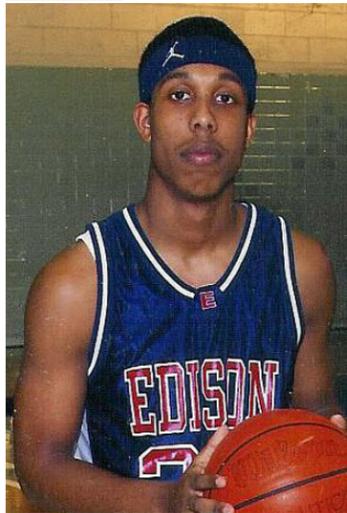
5. What is the big deal anyway, don't all dogs go to heaven?
4. Shouldn't we be more focused on R. Kelly?
3. If I go to prison, will my inmates respect my throwing arm, or will they force me to use it for something else?
2. W.W.O.J.D? (What would O.J do?)
1. At least I have one good thing going for me... none of the dogs tested positive for STD's right?

*None of the above statements can actually be attributed to Michael Vick.

By Howard McCuollough

TIMOTHY ELLISON SIGNS WITH UDC

**BY ADRIAN WILKINS
SPORTS EDITOR / STAFF
WRITER**



Timothy Ellison.
Photo Courtesy of Firebirds.com

The University of the District of Columbia's Men Basketball Team has acquired an outstanding basketball in Timothy Ellison when he signed a letter of intent to play basketball for the Firebirds this upcoming season. Timothy Ellison is a 6'5" swing man who has experience playing different positions on the court ranging from shooting guard to point guard to small forward.

Ellison played basketball at Edison High School in Springfield, Virginia and was named the team's Most Valuable Player following the 2006-2007 season where their record was 18-2 and they won their first district championship since 1970. Ellison also lead the team to victory over Wakefield High School when he scored 20 points, winning the 2007 National District Championship.

"Timothy Ellison will be a great addition to our men's basketball program. His ability to score will increase the odds of our being able to increase our season victories over last year's twenty wins," states a very ecstatic Dr Merritt.

After coming off from a 20-9 season, the best record since winning the NCAA Division II Basketball Championship in 1982, Ellison is a player that is expected to play a major role in the Firebirds offence. His career stats from Edison High School were 15.7 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals per game.

THREE NEW VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS JOIN LADY FIREBIRDS

**BY ADRIAN WILKINS
SPORTS EDITOR**

The University of the District of Columbia's Department of Intercollegiate Athletics is proud to announce the signing of two additional volleyball players for the 2007 season.

"I am pleased to announce that Murette Kierman and Anne Sanchez will join the UDC family as members of our women's volleyball team this year. These young ladies were standout players at their previous schools and will bring new talent and enthusiasm to our program," said Athletics Director Dr. Harold M. Merritt.

Kierman attended Florida Community College in Jacksonville, Florida last year where she played as a middle blocker for two years and was named to the All Conference

second team in 2005. The Gladstone, Australia, native has played on a number of junior and national volleyball club teams in Australia.

Sanchez comes to UDC after playing two years at St. John's River Community College in Palatka, Florida. Sanchez is a native of Orlando, Florida and is a graduate of Freedom High School. She played as an outside hitter at St. John's. She was honored by being named to the FCCAA All-State Team and the FCCAA All-Conference first team in 2006.

The third addition to the team is College of Southern Maryland standout Janae Burt who was a 2006 Honorable Mention All-American, also earned a spot on the National Junior College Athletic Association (JUCO)

Region 20 All-Tournament Team and All-Region First Team. Her efforts helped the team to finish second in the Maryland Junior College Conference. Burt was selected as the College of Maryland 2006-07 Female Athlete of the Year, and was fifth in blocks and tenth in kills among MDJUCO volleyball players.

These three ladies join a UDC Volleyball team that went 14-7 last season led by Daniella Bezerra who was named to the Independent Collegiate Athletic Association 2006 Volleyball ALL-ICAA Second Team. She was also ranked sixth in NCAA Division II in aces and eleventh in kills. The Volleyball team is looking forward to a very successful season with these young ladies leading the way.