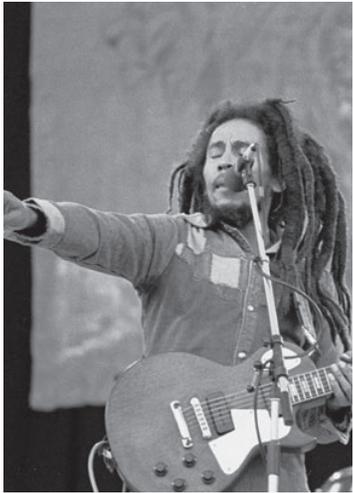


THE UB POST

MARCH 2016

THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933



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Lawsuit seeking to merge UB, Morgan State dismissed

Judge calls proposal "neither educationally sound nor practicable"

By ANDREW R. KOCH
BUSINESS MANAGER

A U.S. District Court judge has dismissed a 2007 lawsuit over duplication of degree programs, brought by a group of current and former students of Maryland's Historically Black Universities (HBUs), against the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the former state Secretary of Higher Education. While not named as a defendant in the lawsuit, the University of Baltimore was mentioned several times in the plaintiffs' arguments.

The Coalition For Equity and Excellence in Maryland Higher Education, a group composed of current and former students from Maryland's four HBUs – Bowie State University in Prince George's County, Coppin State University and Morgan State University in Baltimore, and the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore in Princess Anne (Somerset County) – filed the lawsuit on Dec. 31, 2007 in the U.S. District Court for Maryland. Joining the coalition as plaintiffs in the suit was a group of nine students from Morgan State and UMES. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and then-Chairman Kevin O'Keefe, along with James Lyons, the Secretary of Higher Education under former Gov. Martin O'Malley, were named as the defendants in the class-action suit.

The suit alleges that certain degree programs referred to as Predominantly White Institutions are duplicating what is offered at the Historically Black Universities, in violation of the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause, the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the 1992 Supreme Court decision in *United States v. Fordice* out of Mississippi. The plaintiffs also accused the state of failing to live up to its obligations in a 2000 agreement with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights to "enhance Maryland's historically Black colleges and universities." On Feb. 2, U.S. District Court Judge Catherine Blake dismissed the lawsuit, and ordered both sides to mediate out of court. Judge Blake ordered attorneys for each side to file proposals for remedies by Feb. 19. After that, she scheduled a conference call or a meeting in her chambers to discuss the schedule for a possible trial.

One of the remedies the Coalition proposed in its filing was for Morgan State to take over the University of Baltimore. UB President Kurt Schmoke says this proposal went beyond the focus of the lawsuit, which was the duplication of programs, in the view of Judge Blake.

"A proposal to merge two universities together, in her view, went beyond the narrow focus on program duplication. That was just an extreme response to the program duplication issue," President Schmoke said. In her ruling, Judge Blake wrote that "any numerical benefit as to the racial identifiability of the resulting student body would be outweighed by its academic and financial cost."

"We were asked to submit an affidavit responding to the plaintiffs' proposed remedies, and we showed how there would be a detrimental financial impact on the university by this merger," President Schmoke said. "For example, the fact that we currently have a relationship with the UB Foundation, which is a separate nonprofit entity, which provides things like the Fund for Educational Excellence and it provides grants. If we were to merge into Morgan, the UB Foundation has no obligation to continue to support us. They are a separate entity, and so we would lose access to a foundation that has been working with us historically, providing substantial resources to faculty and students, and that would be a financial detriment to the university."

Morgan State University has had a Master's in Business Administration program since 1964. In 2005, the MHEC approved the UB/Towson

MBA, which started in 2010. President Schmoke explained that the Morgan administrators' argument wasn't with UB, but instead with Towson getting an MBA. He said Morgan wanted business students who graduated from Towson to enroll at Morgan for its MBA program.

"The only way that the state allowed Towson to do that was to attach itself to the existing UB MBA program," President Schmoke said. The plaintiffs cited the approval of the UB/Towson MBA as one of several examples going back to the late 1970s of the MHEC approving degree programs at PWI's. These include the approval of the undergraduate marketing and exercise science programs in 2001, and the business program in 1978 at Salisbury University, which allegedly duplicated the programs offered at UMES. The graduate Public Health program at University of Maryland-Baltimore was approved in 2006, and the plaintiffs allege that program duplicates the program offered at Morgan State. However, President Schmoke described how UB has formed a partnership with Coppin State for a joint Master of Science program in Human Services Administration, a program that UB doesn't offer on its own.

Mayor candidate Calvin Young on putting the charm back in Charm City

By MONTÉZ JENNINGS
MANAGING EDITOR



Mayor Candidate, Calvin Young, as he makes himself known to the community.

Photo courtesy of Calvin Young

This year is a big year of voting and elections. Not only do we have the presidential election, soon it will be time to make decisions on a more local level here in Baltimore. If you have taken a walk around the city, you might have seen various advertisements and endorsements for candidates running for mayor. Take a look around and you might see a not so familiar face, the up and coming, new to politics, Calvin Young has decided to run for mayor. Mayor Candidate, Calvin Young, talks about truly making Baltimore charm city and revitalizing the city.

The Post had the chance to talk to the 28 year old candidate who relates to the "Baltimore" struggle. He knows the city because he grew up here. He had stern, yet humble, beginnings in Northeast Baltimore in a single-parent home. His mother worked for the city jail for 23 years as a correctional officer, telling him, "I work in the jail so you don't go to jail." As a child, Young's mother was often approached by people whom she saw in jail. She would tell him why they went to jail and

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THE UB POST

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SINCE 1933

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POLICY

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?

The UB Post welcomes letters from readers. All letters become the property of The UB Post, which reserves the right to edit letters. Submissions should include name, phone number and e-mail address; students, include year and major; faculty and staff, include title and office or department. Anonymous letters will not be accepted. The next issue hits stands on **MARCH 29**; submission deadline is **MARCH 21**.

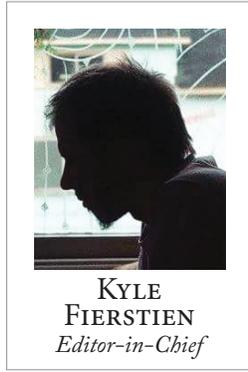
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CORRECTIONS-

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



KYLE
FIERSTIEN
Editor-in-Chief

“Getting an inch of snow is like winning 10 cents in the lottery.” – Bill Waterson, 1988

The spring semester is officially in full swing, though it didn't go off without a hitch. Due to winter storm Jonas (which has been written about by our Business Manager, Andrew Koch, on the UB Post website) the first week of the semester was severely delayed. In my case these closures left me only one class not cancelled that week, but I am sure there are others who had it even worse depending on their schedule.

Such closures are always frustrating for me. As someone whose hometown is the nation's leader in average snowfall, according to the National Weather Service, two to three feet just doesn't seem like a cause for closures, let alone the two to three inches that caused a delay two weeks later. That being said, I am fully aware that it would be fiscally irresponsible for the city of Baltimore to keep the raw snow removal services equivalent to that of Sault Ste. Marie Michigan on retainer for one week of snow out of the year. I am also aware, or have become aware through the groans of my classmates, that not everyone is as comfortable with the cold as I am, or as

comfortable with the risks involved with driving through thick slush as the brave (read: foolish) citizens of my home town are. So, as much as I love complaining, I am able to admit that I am in the minority; and furthermore I am glad that, even though my education has been slightly impeded upon, the safety of our student body remains a high priority.

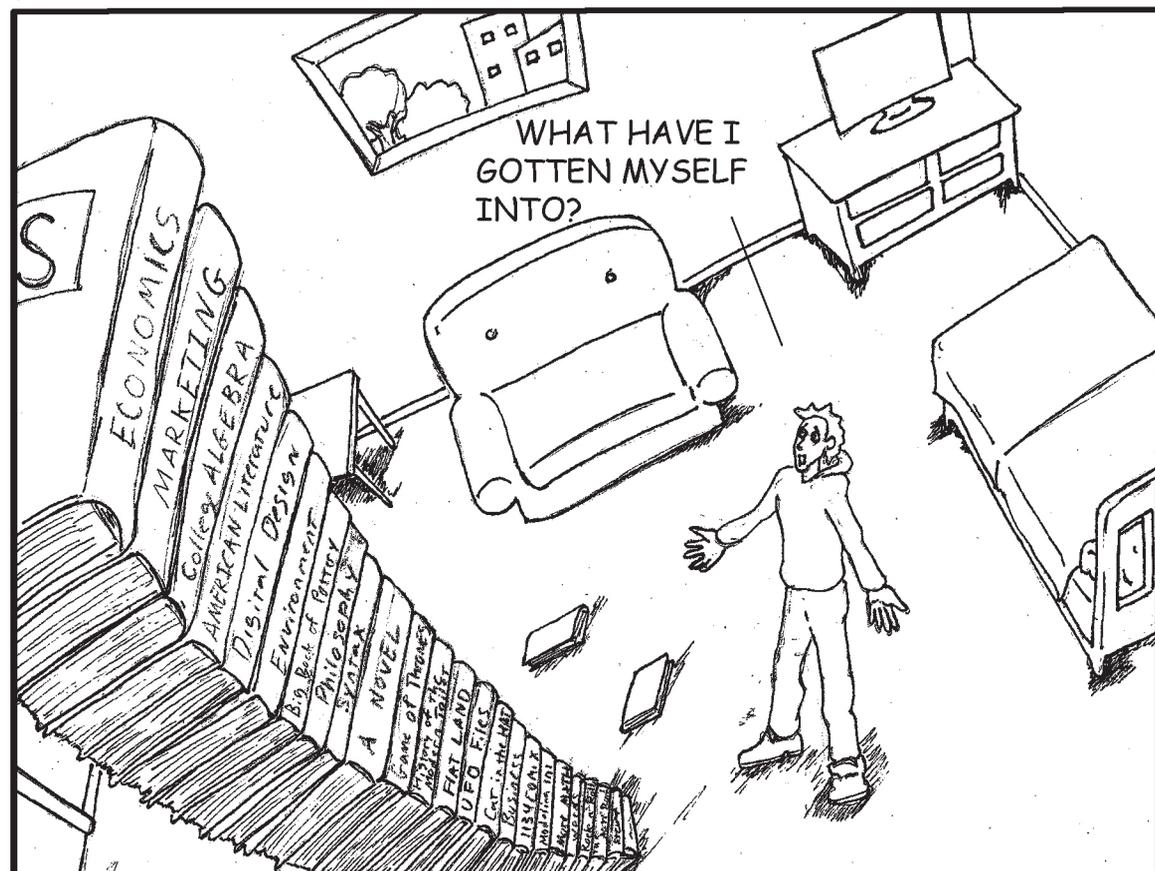
By the time this issue hits the newsstands the snow should be almost entirely melted away, so if there are any more unexpected closures or delays I will thankfully have a more valid excuse to complain.

As always: if you have any questions, concerns, complaints, knock-knock jokes, horrible secrets, or teleplays you need read dramatically, you can reach me at editorinchief.ubpost@gmail.com. I will do my best to respond in a timely manner, or force a subordinate to pretend to be me and respond in my stead.

Signing off,
Kyle Fierstien

COMIC

Campus Life



By G.J. Sieck

AROUND CAMPUS

Archaeology in the community

An interview with Alexandra Jones, PhD

By MATT NICKELSON
CONTRIBUTOR

Dr. Jones is an adjunct professor at UB who has taught cultural anthropology for the past three years. Dr. Jones is also a Chesapeake archaeologist specializing on post-emancipation proclamation African-Americans. One of Dr. Jones local excavations was at Cabin John Park, which runs along the Potomac River. I recently had the opportunity to sit down and speak with Dr. Jones. Our conversation revolved around her non-profit organization called Archaeology in the Community (AITC). While she was a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley she participated in many community archaeology events. Thinking of her home back in Washington, D.C., she realized nothing like this program was offered in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Archaeology in the Community focuses on the increase of community awareness through public events, providing archaeology enrichment to all students, providing professional development to college students interested in pursuing careers in archaeology, and partnering with the community to implement archaeological programs.

Dr. Jones explained that there are three program tiers AITC is

involved in: youth, community, and professional development. The youth program includes a young archaeologist club, archaeologist for a day, and a mini archaeology camp. The community development includes a Day of Archaeology Festival, which will be held at the Dumbarton House in Georgetown on July 16th from 10 am-3 pm.

One of the highlights of these workshops is their ability to connect students to archaeological resources and networks both regionally and nationally.

Another community program the non-profit coordinates is the Postcard Project Ask an Archaeologist. Students in grades 3-5 are asked to pose questions to archaeologists. Then, the postcards are sent to archaeologists around the country who answer and return the messages. There is also a blog called "Digging into Archaeology." The blog is a space where everyone can voice their

thoughts, concerns, and experiences in archaeology. AITC also has a video series called "The Dig."

The professional development in archaeology includes a college workshop series. The workshops focus on archaeological methods, mentoring, resume writing, and career preparation. One of the highlights of these workshops is their ability to connect students to archaeological resources and networks both regionally and nationally. AITC offers internships for students looking to gain experience in public archaeology. Dr. Jones proudly explained the Archaeological Landscape Photography of Washington, D.C. Area Program. This program is free to college students and allows them to create and exhibit their photographs of Washington, D.C.'s rich archaeological history through digital photography.

For more information about Dr. Jones and AITC, please visit archaeologyincommunity.com. AITC's website is a great place to find information about archaeology in the Mid-Atlantic region and build wonderful connections.

Is feminism dead?

By BELINDA SACCO
CONTRIBUTOR

National Women's History month is upon us once again and, while many U.B. students continue to celebrate how much progress has been made towards gender equality, some still struggle with exactly how to define "equality" and "feminism," and whether there exists any further need of either. They are not alone in their confusion.

Every March the internet floods with articles from news sources like *The Huffington Post*, *The Atlantic*, and *Forbes* debunking the concept of the wage gap between men and women based on discrimination. These articles assert that men make more money because statistically they choose to enter more lucrative fields and work longer hours than their female counterparts. "5 Feminist Myths That Will Not Die" by *Time* contributor Christina Hoff Sommers further dissects conflated poverty, sexual assault, and domestic violence statistics, ending with the line, "My advice to women's advocates: Take back the truth."

What is the truth? Is feminism dead? Should it be?

An entire internet movement says yes. Over the past three years, anti-feminist men's movement Men Going Their Own Way (MGTOW) has cropped up on social media sites while promoting masculism and disparaging women. Their website currently lists 13,207 members.

Feminism's choice of battles has garnered some critique as well. "I'm all for equal pay, equal treatment, and equal expectations professionally," says U.B. junior Sierra Thompson. "But some things I just don't get—like the fight for women to go topless

[legally]. Sure, breasts shouldn't be sexualized, but they are. And when there's women getting stoned to death for wearing pants in Baghdad, is the right to be half-naked really what [women's advocates] want to focus on?"

When asked if and why feminism was still needed in first world countries like the U.S., UB student Alexis Jeter stated, "I think the question of whether it's needed in first world countries boils down to the question of legislating sexual assault and domestic violence against women. Feminism has always led the fight on these issues. Think back to Take Back the Night and the Riot Grrrl movements... I believe feminism should stay around as [a] means for women to advocate for women."

Many point to the debunked wage gap myth and lowered sexual assault rates as an indication that sexism no longer poses a threat. When asked about this argument and her experience with it, UB graduate student Ann Margaret Zelenka said, "There is a strong emphasis on male pride both in Europe and in America. I experienced this particularly among the Catholic and Christian denominations. I have been told on several occasions I should not work hard and get into law school, but instead stay at home all of the time and be with a spouse. In America, we should be rid of misogyny, but that is simply not the case."

Arthur Magida, UB Professor and author of *The Nazi Seance*, says of feminism's value, "I don't think [feminism] is dead. I don't think it's dormant. I think it's changing because expectations are different."

spotlightub

Cellist Nikolai Kolarov & Pianist Robert Hitz

Presented through a grant from the Peggy and Yale Gordon Charitable Trust

Tuesday
March 22nd, 7PM
Wright Theater
Tickets available
www.etix.com and one hour pre-show
\$10 general, \$5 students

Upcoming play confronts issue of sexual assault

By JUSTIN JOHNSON
CONTRIBUTOR

Now that the semester has started, it is time once again to continue serious conversations within the student body. And what better way to keep that going than a play about sexual awareness, with savvy use of language, compelling characters, and a captivating story. "But I Said No" by Doug Grissom and Margaret Baldwin will be directed by Kimberly Lynne, a UB alum and faculty member and theater director.

Lynne explained how "But I Said No" came into fruition. "I had a learning community with John Chapeman who works in the Deans office here, and for my class I would have my students read about social justice, and he suggested this piece."

When asked how she believes the audience will respond to the content of the play, Lynne said, "I think that having people play roles such as the type of characters in the play, along

with the story, will bring about emotion... because it is a play that tackles an important yet, rough problem that we face today."

"But I Said No" is a play that brings attention to Title IX and sexual assault, however it is also grabs hold of the audience emotionally and intellectually, challenging the audience to wonder what they can do or how they can take action on the matter. Lynne wants the audience to reflect after the play. She stated, "I just want people to think. So next time they are in a position with their partner and they feel uncomfortable, saying no is completely fine." —Lynne

"But I Said No" will be performed in the Wright Theater at the UB Student Center on March 31st at 6 p.m. University of Baltimore's faculty and students are all invited with open arms.

"I just want people to think. So next time they are in a position with their partner and they feel uncomfortable, saying no is completely fine." —Lynne

Campus Life Upcoming Events

- March 1** Mend the Gap – *A Mend the Gap is a four (4) part, interactive discussion series among peers focused on topics relating to mental health, 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m., AC 252*
- March 2** Why Not Graduate School? 1-4 p.m. BC 135
- March 5** Opening for the Baltimore Poetry Library 2-4 p.m., LAP 303
- March 7** "Motivating People, Mentoring Potential, Measuring Performance" 1-3 p.m., BC 003
- March 7-8** UB Grad Fair, Bookstore
- March 10** Voter Registration Training 4-5 p.m., SC 301
- March 22** LinkedIn Photo Shoot 2-6 p.m., SC 306
- Kolarov and Hitz Concert 7-9 p.m., SC – Wright Theater
- March 30** 12:30 Talks @ Langsdale: "Anime and the Poetics of Intervals" 7-8:30 p.m., Learning Common 319
- March 31** But I Said No 6-8 p.m., SC – Wright Theater



Singer/ Songwriter Shelby Blondell

Indie pop-rocker and UB alum
returns to campus

Thursday, March 3rd

Wright Theater

21 W Mt Royal Ave.

7:30pm

Doors open at 7:00pm

\$5 students
\$10 faculty/staff
\$15 general admission
www.etix.com



Chronicling Black hair with author Bert Ashe

By MONTÉZ JENNINGS
CONTRIBUTOR

Conversations regarding issues of Blackness and Black people seem to cause tension, when most often tension isn't necessary. The topics are most often deemed political or controversial when in fact they are more so topics of living life as a Black person. With that being said, the one topic that continues to cause a great amount of turmoil is the topic of Black hair.

Black hair, especially in its natural, unprocessed state has been deemed political by many, and in a sense, unfortunately it is. In the year 2016, many people are still asking to touch and stroke the hair on a person's head. Some people take the liberty granted to them and wrap their fingers in the coils or locs or place a hand on top of the person's head. For Black people it can be a continued annoyance or a commentary on the culture we live in. It is a practiced that hopefully, in 2017 or by the end of the year many people will stop.

For many people, their hair is a statement, a symbol or pride or a great representation of who they. For some Black people who have natural hair, it can serve as a political statement because afro-textured was, and is, a little bit of a taboo. The idea of Black hair and theories surrounding it have been explored and explained by many people. For most, when it comes to manners surrounding hair and beauty, they think of women, however University of Richmond Professor, Bert Ashe sees differently. Bert Ashe visited the University of Baltimore, reading from his book, "Twisted: My Dreadlock Chronicles." In this book he provides commentary on Black mens' relationship with the "issue" of Black Hair.

In reference to your book, I know your locks inspired you but what else inspired you to create this work?

Well part of it was some love for the fellas. The fact that anybody who's interested in black hair, talking about black hair, theorizing about black hair, understands and respects as they should, the black female situation. In term of the beauty ideals and the way beauty is much more of a factor for women than it is [for] men. But at the same time, Black men do think about their hair, even if it isn't as conscious and not as fraught with all sorts of tension as Black women. I wanted to publish a book where the central focus is on a black man and his hair.

Do you have a preference of calling them "locs" or "dreds"?

I do. There is a chapter, about two-thirds of the way through the book called Against "Dred-Locs". I talk a lot in that chapter about how this idea about there is nothing dreadful about my hair, you know? That dreadlocks with an A is somehow negative and wrong and I disagree with that. The term dreadlock came from the Rastafarians. They're the ones that brought the hair style as a hair style to the United States. I like the punning double meaning. That dreads in terms of the way the Rastafarians used it did mean negative. It meant different. It meant outsider. It mean separate from but they didn't mean dread as in dreadful. There is more than one way to use the word, so yeah I'm pretty solidly on "team dreadlock."

Do you think Black hair should be labeled as "natural hair" or do you think when we talk about our hair it should just be, "my hair"?

I like natural! There does need to be a term used to make a distinction between the texture of one's hair and the fact that if a woman has natural hair, you know displaying or wearing her natural hair, it allows us to know that it's her hair. It's not her treated with chemicals. It's not her hair pressed and combed. For the most part, it's the hair that she was born with and in that sense, I think it's fair to call it natural. It's only so natural, of course because it's done in a way that is a conscious stylistic gesture. I think natural is a perfectly fine term.

When you wrote this, how do you think people received it? Were you afraid to write a book about black hair and more importantly, a Black man's hair?

No, I wasn't and the response over the fifteen years it took to bring this thing into publication was always positive, people always loved the idea. It was difficult to work it into a narrative form that worked. People were happy and excited about the possibility of the topic. There really wasn't... I cannot recall somebody saying, 'you're a dude! Why are you writing this book?' But what I do recall people saying, quite regularly, quite frankly is some version of 'It's just hair! You're over thinking this. It's not that big of a deal.'

How do you feel when people say that to you?

I have to disagree. I tell them that not only is it not just [hair] but that it has all sorts of meaning that are sometimes articulated clearly and other times that clash with all sorts of ideas in presentation of the body. I have two women- two seniors- in my seminar that I am teaching this semester, called 'Black Style.' Both of those women have straightened hair. Now, what I've seen of the course of the time I have known them at the University of Richmond, I have known them since their sophomore year, if not earlier than that, they have worn their hair naturally. One of them had this sort of modified dreadlocks and the other one had worn her hair in various sorts of braids. Their hair is natural, it's pressed right now but if I was to walk up to them and see their hair today and didn't know what their history was, I would assume they were the sorts of women who had to have their hair pressed because that's the only way they can present themselves to the world and I would be wrong. So the fact is there are all sorts of things hair communicates to the world, even if, as I say in "Twisted", 'Black hair is an unreliable narrator.' It's telling you something but it isn't necessarily telling you what you think you see. And as a result, I don't see how it can just be hair if it has so many complicated things to present to the culture about individuals, about groups, is so complicated. So the idea that you can say 'eh... it's just hair- no it's not! It's not just hair. You're wrong is what I would say. It's deeper than that.

You wanted locs for a while before you actually had them. You contemplated a while. What was the "give all" that made you say I have to do this?

I think the bottom line has to do with a kind of, sort of maturity combined with acceptance of self. See, I'm not the only one- I think every healthy person, I'm not talking about people who are, you know narcissist or have some sort of mental illness or emotional issue, just ordinary healthy people, have a persona that they project to the world and they have a persona that they are inside. I think that what we try to do with our clothes and our hair and our affect and our presentation and our voice and a variety of ways that speak for us; we try to match how we are inside

by projecting a persona outside. And I, for a variety of reasons that have to do with the culture of my household and where I grew up in the suburbs and my own personality and my own sense of who I am, I struggled with the ability to present to the world a hair style that I felt reflected my edgy and sort of bohemian sensibility that I felt like I really was inside. But [I] could only managed to reflect to the world, this pretty conservative- not politically but in terms of clothing and hair style, way of being a version of Bert Ashe that communicated who was non-verbally to the world. And it took me almost until the end of my 30s to actually feel comfortable presenting to the world, truly what I was inside.

Do you think the uncomfortability came from society of people you knew?

Oh absolutely! Sure! Part it was people I knew but a lot of it was society, the culture. It's kind of like when I, in the book about a third of the way through, I started talking about people reacting to my hair. Random strangers in grocery stores, random strangers on the street. Four or five days ago, I was coming out of the grocery store, I had done the grocery shopping for my wife and I and a woman- a white older, sixty something said something. I was listening to head phones at the time, so I paused my iPod and I said, 'excuse me'. The expression on her face wasn't aggressive, it wasn't off-putting, and so I said, 'excuse me'. And she said, 'are you a musician?' I said, 'No... why do you ask?' And she started tug at the air beneath her ears as if she was referencing my hair and she finally said, 'Your hair.' To me, when a random stranger says something like that, it's not just her as an individual. It's the culture talking. It's the world saying, in one way or another, when you wear your hair like that, first and foremost I have to say something- I have to ask you who you are because your hair style is so provocative and so out of the ordinary that I moved to speak to a total stranger. I don't mind it personally. I think it's fascinating and curious. But in a sense, that's the culture talking and if in fact you are uncomfortable with that sort of thing, if you feel like you're not quite up to wearing clothing or ear gages or a hair style that is so outside of the norm that people will ask you about it or people will

look at you with a double take, then you need not to have that hair style. I wasn't ready to be able to wear and present to the world a hairstyle that wasn't conventional.

Would you say culture needs to change or understand black hair?

Culture changes. Change is slow and incremental. Sometimes the change seems like change but isn't that much change. For example, for as long as dreadlocks have been in American culture, for as long as they have been around, you would think the sheer number of people wearing dreadlocks would disconnect the presumption that if you are wearing dreadlocks you must be Jamaican. But I am here to tell you, that with startling and amazing regularity people assume that I am Jamaican because I am wearing dreadlocks. Even though the culture has changed in the way we view the dreadlock hairstyle, to a certain extent the culture hasn't change but so much because its inability to see dreadlocks any other way than attached to Jamaicans. The culture changes but it only changes so much and that change is going to be slow and incremental indeed. I'm not relying on culture to change. I'm not expecting culture to change to make me comfortable. That's not the way cultures work. For me it's probably better for a person to attain a certain level of comfort inside a culture that simply is not going to change but so much.

Bert Ashe reflects on writing this book for himself and for culture. The book began as journal entries in his process to loc his hair. It then grew from his personal thoughts and struggles. Ashe has an interest in Black hair as it relates to men and to himself, and will continue to explore this topic with a new project he is working on about the hair of Black men throughout history. Ashe is taking famous historical figures ranging from Jimi Hendrix to Malcolm X in hopes of talking about the figure and the media representation of the figure- looking specifically at their hair and how their hair was a part of them and the legacies they left behind.

COLUMNS



Bike More Bee More

Being green gets easier: improvements are planned for Baltimore's bicycle network

By LAURA MELAMED
CONTRIBUTOR

UBGreen encourages alternative transportation, including bicycling, to reduce the university's carbon footprint. Over the next two years there will be extensive improvements to the bicycle network around campus. Baltimore's new Downtown Bicycle Network will consist of improved bike lanes running east and west as well as north and south. Also, a city-run bike-share system is coming later this summer. Bicycling will become a safer and more practical transportation choice.

Bike lanes coming

A cycle track is planned for Maryland Avenue, with a June start date for construction. A cycle track is a protected bike lane, with a physical barrier between the bike lane and traffic. Several of these facilities already exist in Washington DC, a city with fast rising cycling rates. The Maryland Avenue project is expected to take 90 days to complete. The cycle track will run right through campus to the Inner Harbor southbound and north to 29th St. in Charles Village near Johns Hopkins University.

183 UB students live in the 21218 zip code, 239 live in 21201 and 205 live in 21202. All three zip codes will be a short distance from the new cycle track, putting at least 627 UB students within easy biking distance of UB.

Additionally, students biking to UB from zip code 21211, where 89 students live and which includes Hampden and other northwest locations, will be able to bike the Jones Falls Trail and connect directly with the Maryland Ave. Cycle Track and take it south to campus.

"I would definitely use that route," said UB student Mia White. "It would give me a safer, more populated route back up to Hampden after dark. And it will mean I can get from my house to campus without having to use any major roads!"

"Charles Village residents would be able to get to UB pretty much instantaneously---and safely, of course---using the cycle track," said UB student Zachary Holbrook, who commuted to UB by bicycle, regularly, when he lived in Charles Village.

"It's quicker by bike than car," said Joshua Davis, assistant professor of history at UB. Davis currently commutes to UB by bicycle, from the Charles Village area, whenever weather allows. "I think the main reason it's quicker is that it takes a decent amount of time to find a parking spot in the garage and then walk a few blocks back to campus. So a lot depends on where in Charles Village one's coming from but also where one would be parking." Davis currently commutes down the bike boulevard on Guilford Ave. and would actually benefit from a second cycle track, planned for Mt. Royal Ave.

The Mt. Royal Streetscape/Cycle Track is another bike facility that will connect our campus with MICA and Bolton Hill. It is scheduled to break ground in 2017, according to a news post by Bikemore, Baltimore City's bicycle advocacy group. The post appeared on the organization's website Jan. 7.

Advocating for safe bicycling

Bikemore wants more students to join the campaign to make Baltimore safer and friendlier for bicycles. Adding members helps Bikemore be persuasive with politicians who sometimes don't realize many people want safe and convenient bike routes. Bikemore offers a \$25 student membership for any student who wants to get on board.

Bikesharing

In addition to the cycle tracks, a Baltimore bike-share system is scheduled to launch this fall. Bike-share is a public system that rents bicycles for short-term use. \$500 thousand for a bike share system implementation is part of Baltimore's new public transit plan. With UB right across the street from Penn Station, students are likely to have ample opportunity to participate in bike-share. Baltimore City estimates 300-400 bicycles to be available, initially. UB is evaluating adding a bike-share station directly on campus, according to Jeff La Noue, UB's sustainability planner.

New at UB

UB recently installed covered bike parking in the Maryland Avenue Ga-



Members of the University of Baltimore take a break on the Jones Falls Trail. The trail will connect with the Maryland Ave. Cycle Track when it is built.

rage (MAG). The rack is geared for UB students living in the Mt. Vernon area who may not want to lug their bikes to upper floor apartments, but still want to keep their bikes in a safe, covered area. However, bicycle parking at the MAG is not meant to be treated as an attic. UB commuters are welcome to it as well. Bicycle parking in the MAG is free.

Look out for a bicycle-commuter class this semester. The UB Student Government Association (SGA) and the UB Bicycling Club are working to bring you this event to help make your trip to campus easier.

UB has free showers and lockers at the gym on the third floor of the Academic Center. There are additional state-of-the-art showers located in the basement of UB's Law Center. Showers on campus help make bicycle commuting convenient. There is bicycle parking, outside and under cover, near most of UB's major buildings.

Join the UB Bicycling Club and

get to know the local routes with a group. Scott Thomsen, president of the club, plans to use the Maryland Avenue Cycle Track frequently for club rides. "We could definitely make use of it whenever we go north, or even south for that matter," he says. To join the club or find out more, visit Org Sync or search the University of Baltimore Bicycling Club on Facebook. Additionally, you can contact Thomsen at Scott.Thomsen@ubalt.edu. Thomsen is a freshman at UB and plans to commute to campus by bicycle for the next three years.

Can UB be a "Bike Friendly University?"

Bicycle Friendly University (BFU) is an official designation given by the League of American Bicyclists with awards ranging from bronze to platinum.

BFU awards are official recognition that a campus creates safe and convenient places to ride and park

bicycles, teaches people of all ages and skill levels, builds a strong bike culture that welcomes and celebrates bicycling, ensures safe roads for all users and plans for bicycling as a safe and viable transportation option, states the League of American Bicyclists on its website. In Maryland, designated BFU's include Towson University (bronze) and University of Maryland (gold). UB, Salisbury University, and UMBC are expected to apply for official Bicycle Friendly University Status in August.

UB's 2011 BFU application fell short. "Progress is happening so we have more to offer in our application this time" said Jeff La Noue.

If UB gets official BFU status, we will be the first Baltimore City university to achieve that goal.

It seems like a practical choice to me.

Spring Fashion Fling

8 fashion tips that are "2 Legit to Quit"

By: SAKINA STAMPER
CONTRIBUTOR

Flowers, sunshine and showers Oh My! Time to tell those winter fashions good bye! Well not quite so fast. People seem to think that whenever a new season rolls around (four times a year) it is cause to go buy a whole new wardrobe. Now I can't speak for everyone but in speaking for myself I can admit that every year I end up with lots of clothing I never get around to wearing. This bad shopping habit is one that I decided to put an end to for a couple of reasons. The two main reasons would be to save money instead of wasting money and to save resources!

Spring is all about cleaning out the old and brining in the new. However, this does not necessarily mean throwing away everything and buying new things, especially when it comes to fashion. One of the great things about fashion is that based on

your creativity level, fashions can be highly transitional from one season to the next. Spring is such a great season in Maryland because you get a taste of various elements. One day it will be rainy, and the next day it will be bright and sunny. Some days it will be in the high 40s, and other days it will be in the low 70s. There is so much fun that can be had with fashionable spring styles.

In order to help you get prepared for Spring 2016, I've prepared the following list of tips to help you transition your winter wardrobe into your stylish spring fashion.

Limit your layers

During the winter, we put on as many layers as possible to keep warm. However with the spring, layering can end up being too heavy. Since the spring weather can have differ-

ent elements, you want to make sure the layers you wear aren't too heavy, so cotton and linen are good choices.

The denim jacket

I don't care what year it is, this will always be a staple to wear during spring. You probably already have one, but if not, this would be an item to purchase because of how transitional it is every year. Consider it an investment piece.

Sweaters

The cardigan sweater is really easy and convenient to wear with that sleeveless dress or shirt. If you get too warm you can easily take it off and wrap it around your waist or toss around your shoulders. Also, spring is a very good season for ladies to wear those awesome sweater dresses.

Color

Get creative with pairing some of your darker winter colors such as black and grays with brighter spring colors such as hues of blue, Kelly green, and pinks. A hit of color will make your entire look pop!

Lace and Fishnet panty hose

Not quite ready to put away your favorite combat boots or knee boots? You don't have to. Pairing the boots with a breathable pair of lace or fishnet panty hose allows you to confidently rock those boots in the spring time.

Shorts

It is not quite summer time yet, but you can wear shorts. It is perfectly okay to wear your favorite pair of shorts as long as you pair them with your favorite panty hose and boots.

Flowers are your friends

What a better way to style your winter fashions than with hints of flowers. Flower prints and accessories are a great touch to add a bit of spring flare to your transitional winter fashions.

Don't forget to have fun! Fashion and style should always be fun. Spring allows us the opportunity to let our hair down and get creative with our looks.

Hopefully these tips were helpful to you. Just remember, springing forward with a stylish wardrobe does not mean you have to go out and spend money. Invest in the current wardrobe you already have by adding a little creativity to it.



The Budget of Traveling

It's a digital world

By NICOLE HOVERMALE
PRODUCTION MANAGER

We are living in a digital era, and the backpacking traveler, no matter what country she or he goes to, cannot escape that. Just six years ago traveling backpacker-style (moving on local transport and staying in shared hostels) with a cheap, twenty-dollar cell phone meant one more thing to keep track of. At that time it would have been absurd to consider bringing a smart phone to many places, especially such places where these little computers we call phones are not common and generally reserved for the wealthy. Pulling out a smart phone flaunts one's wealth, which is never a good idea while traveling.

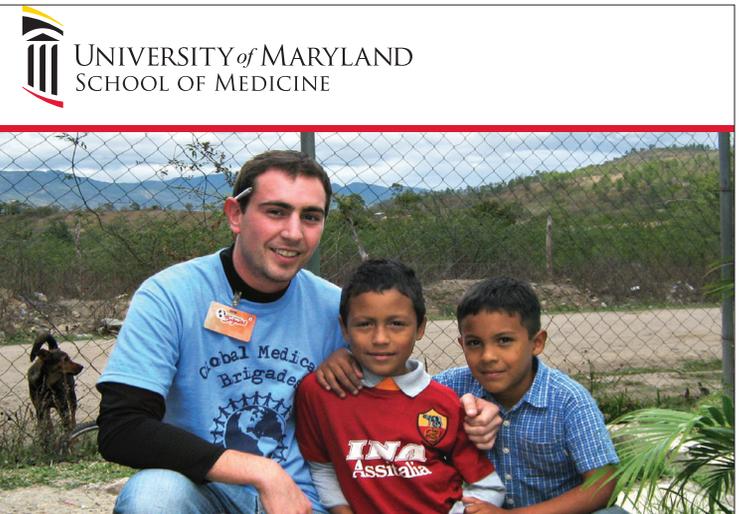
But things have changed. Wi-Fi started becoming common in hostels and internet-café's in tourist areas are harder to find. As with many things that change, it is never purely for good or for bad, but it has its ups and downs. In some ways it makes living in the moment more feasible—booking an airline ticket the evening be-

fore a flight can be done at 11:00 p.m. from a bed. But it becomes much harder to escape home with Facebook and Twitter still at your fingertips. In many cases human interaction sprung from necessity is no longer needed, at home or abroad. Instead of asking a random person on the street for directions, I can use the maps.me application (a downloadable map that navigates without an internet connection) to find my way. While I just lost a moment of human contact that could have turned into a memorable experience, not many people are around and I am able to get back to my hostel before dark, knowing I am heading in the right direction.

Like so many decisions when traveling, deciding whether or not to bring a smart phone is a personal one that can only be decided by you. In my recent experiences, traveling with a smart phone made my life much easier. I pre-booked hostels so I had an address to hand the taxi

driver, I was able to easily navigate my way around streets, I booked overnight train tickets a few days prior to get a sleeper berth, and I set up tours which were important to me ahead of time to ensure I'd have the experiences I wanted.

Still, some of my favorite memories from being on the road are the unplanned ones, the ones where I had very little idea of where I was going and how to get there and getting lost at some point was eminent. Those are the moments that reminded me that I'm strong and capable and that life isn't as difficult and complicated as we make it out to be. If you're unsure, then do a little research about your destination before deciding. And whatever you decide, live the experience and don't be trapped by spending precious time emailing and updating social media.



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Library Insider

When the going gets tough, get graphic novels!

By LAURA MELAMED
CONTRIBUTOR

“Pleasure reading should be pleasurable,” says librarian Jenny Arch in her blog *Look out, honey, ‘cause I’m using technology* “Not that you shouldn’t ever explore a new genre or try a book that you find a bit difficult, but if you’re 25 or 50 or 100 pages in and you’re just not that into it, then by all means, put it down and pick up something else instead! You have this librarian’s permission.”

Unless you’re doing required reading for a class, she adds, there’s no sense driving yourself crazy with a book when you can be enjoying one instead.

It can be difficult to read a book your friend recommends when you’re swamped with school work. After hours with a textbook it can be hard to concentrate on an intricate novel or thought-provoking nonfiction. Are those books better left for summer reading, when you can give them your full attention?

Kemi Kodja, a finance major at UB who works at Langsdale Library, is now reading *W.I.T.C.H.*, an Italian fantasy comic series written by Elisabetta Gnone, Alessandro Barbucci and Barbara Canepa.

Kodja started reading the series for the second time in her life, this semester, after a UB writing professor asked her class to reflect on what made them love reading.

The first time Kodja read *W.I.T.C.H.*, she was in third grade and living in Benin. Her edition was

a French translation.

After being inspired by her Writing 300 assignment, Kodja picked up her old French translation of *W.I.T.C.H.* and struggled to get through it with a French/English dictionary at her side. Mainly an English speaker now, Kodja ultimately decided to read the English translation of *W.I.T.C.H.* online.

Kodja likes shelving books at the library because it’s a great way to find new books to read. This time of the semester, however, she is feeling daunted by the pile of library books she has checked out.

Still Kodja wanted to stay on top of everything she had to do, so you can imagine how happy she was when she discovered *The Adventures of Johnny Bunko: The Last Career Guide You’ll Ever Need* on Langsdale’s shelves.

“*The Adventures of Johnny Bunko*” is America’s first business book in the Japanese comic format known as manga – and the last career guide you’ll ever need” says the graphic novel’s author, Daniel Pink, on his website.

Entertaining as well as inspiring, the book can be read in an hour or two.

Readers can also find *Persepolis*, by Marjane Satrapi, another graphic novel on Langsdale’s shelves. *Persepolis* is considered a modern classic of the medium. The book is a memoir of a girl growing up during the Islamic Revolution in Iran. “...Full of

thematic imagery,” says book reviewer Rachel Fischer, in *Library Journal*. The family in *Persepolis* is fascinating, says Fischer. The main character is an outspoken and intelligent girl with Marxist parents. She also happens to be the great granddaughter of one of Iran’s last emperors.

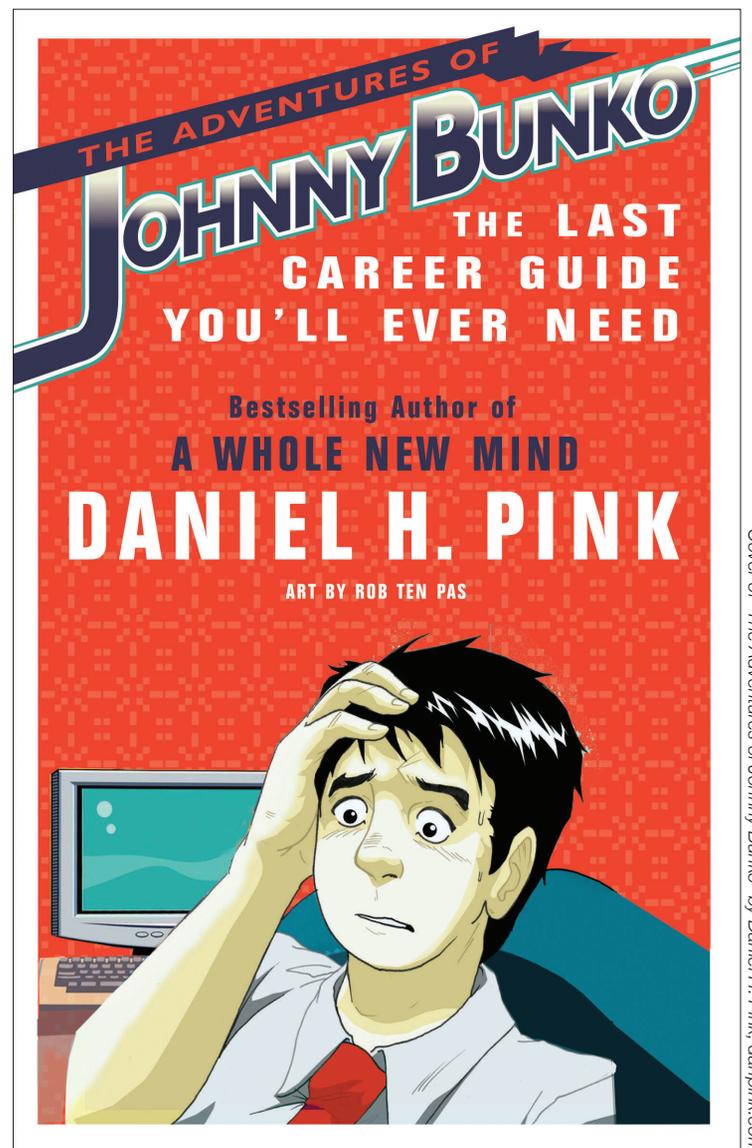
Persepolis could be an engaging way to explore memoir as well as social and political history along with human rights issues.

Similarly, students might want to check out *Maus*, the Pulitzer prize winning graphic novel by Art Spiegelman. *Maus* is a Holocaust survival story that explores the effects of experiencing the Holocaust.

Other graphic novels at Langsdale include *Gabba gabba hey!: the Graphic Story of the Ramones*, *Skim*, a tale of growing up goth in the 90s and a graphic novel version of *Romeo and Juliet*.

To find more graphic novels at Langsdale Library, visit Worldcat at ubalt.worldcat.org.

And remember, you can always put down your book halfway through and pick up a different one.



Cover of "The Adventures of Johnny Bunko" by Daniel H. Pink. danpink.com

You can find a copy of "The Adventures of Johnny Bunko" at Langsdale Library or danpink.com

\$500

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The UB Post is currently looking for writers.

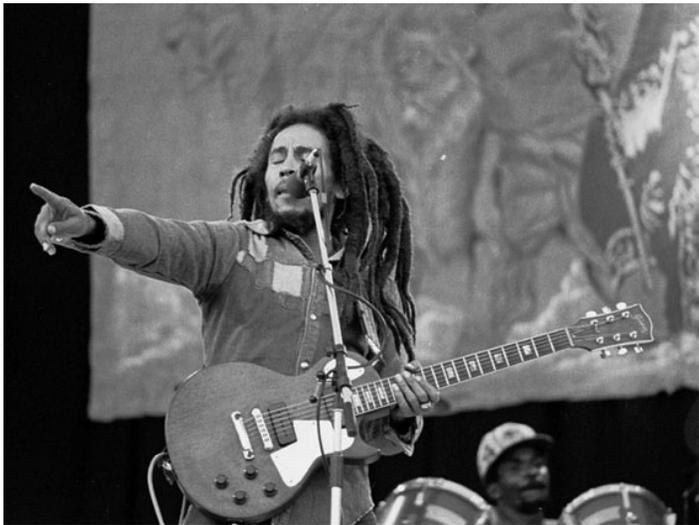
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Birthday bash for Bob Marley

By MATT NICKELSON
CONTRIBUTOR



Bob Marley.

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It's not often you get to celebrate a legends 71st birthday on their actual birthday. I am of course talking about Bob Marley whose birthday is February 6. The man who helped pay tribute to this legend of music was Junior Marvin. His name may not compare to that of Marley's, but he played guitar in Marley's band, the Wailers, for five years. He was invited to join Stevie Wonder or Bob Marley and the Wailers on Valentine's Day in 1977. He chose Bob Marley because they both had Jamaican roots. He was a key contributor to some of Marley's biggest releases including 1977's 'Exodus' and 1980's 'Uprising.'

Junior now leads his own ten piece band called Junior Marvin's Wailers. There is a full drum kit, percussions, and two keyboard players. The wonderful celebration of Bob Marley's birthday was held at the Creative Alliance in Highlandtown. The festivi-

ties began with a DJ soul shakedown party for an hour of Marley inspired dance music. The venue usually holds around 150-200 people but there were many more than that groovin' to those reggae beats. The chairs were moved out so people could sway and dance to the music.

Junior Marvin's Wailers were very tight and professional. They also dedicated their performance to Althea 'Julie' Layne Hamilton, a vocalist in their band who recently passed away. They brought a special guest, who they introduced as Bobby from Mongolia. He accompanied Marvin on a few songs. They covered many of Marley's classic hits including 'I Shot the Sheriff,' 'Redemption Song,' and 'Three Little Birds.' I don't believe there was a person who wasn't singing along; I know I was. They jammed for two hours taking a ten minute break.

Many people may not know that Junior Marvin carries a piece of Maryland with him to every show—his Paul Reed Smith guitar. As of 2012 he has been endorsed by PRS Guitars of Stevensville, MD on the eastern shore. Also, like his late friend Bob Marley, Marvin is a humanitarian. He sponsors the Kana Academy in Ethiopia, which is a school designed to assist in educating children in undeveloped countries.

The audience was a mix of young and old which just goes to show that even though Bob Marley's been dead for 34 years his music and message of good vibes and peace will always resonate with listeners. Junior Marvin released a new album in February titled 'Unite the Time Is Right: Africa Is Calling You.'

The archaeology of a poet

By BELINDA SACCO
CONTRIBUTOR

Baltimore's first Youth Poet Laureate Derick Ebert sat down after the release of his first collection of poetry "Black Boy Archaeologist" to discuss origins, influences, and how far he's come as an artist in the span of two short years.

When and how did you get interested in poetry?

I got into poetry around my sophomore year at UB. The generic story I always like to tell is I was in a two-year relationship and then, after we ended it, I couldn't find an outlet, and Anthony Moll, who was my professor freshman year always showed spoken word videos before he started class... and I always found spoken word very interesting. So I said, "Let me Google some spoken word artists and just listen." I listened for a few weeks and was like, "Wow, this is really cool. I think I'm going to give it a try." Eventually, I just started to write and write and write. I didn't perform a whole lot until about February of 2014. I would go to very few open mics, get cold feet, and leave, but that was my start. That was my

beginning. It was Open Mics, and then finding Dew More Baltimore.

Who or what are some of your main influences in writing your poetry?

I would definitely say hip-hop influences a lot of what I talk about. It at least influences the message. Certain rappers and hip-hop artists like Kanye West, J. Cole, and even Kendrick Lamar kind of all talk about the same theme and have the same message. They just do it a different way because, you know, their styles are so different. When I listen to music I'm always influenced and I take what they say and I try to apply it to how I connect to that topic and how I relate, and if I can relate in any way, if I've experienced what they've gone through in their raps then I apply it to my poetry. In addition, what really influences me is just being out, talking to people--the stories that come from that and the stories that are worth sharing are what influence me the most. I want to tell other people about it instead of just talking how we're talking right

now. I try to find a creative way to present it to the masses in the form of poetry... Also, James Baldwin is one of my favorite writers. He's influenced a lot of my endings because how James Baldwin ends in a lot of his essays... is so impactful because they just leaving you hanging or they leave you with this sense of closure. So I adopt that style from him in ending with a powerful, breath-taking, drop the mic, walk off the stage message.

And what happens when the people who are in the poetry hear the poetry? For example, I know in your poem "Archeologist" you talk a lot about your father. Has he heard that poem? How did he react?

He has heard "Archeologist." There is some conflict with that only because he doesn't really understand what the poetry is saying--or maybe he does; we haven't really talked about the poem before. He just feels like in the poem I'm telling him he's not doing a good job of being a father, but really I'm not. It's just that we have separate interests. The poem

even starts off with him telling me and my brothers "How about you be interested in something like this? Something like..." Something like what he's interested in. And at the end of the poem I talk about how he's always given us everything and that I'm appreciative of that, but, even though he's always wanted me to be these things, I wanted to be something completely different. I want to be who I am. It's really a poem about that. But I think he's still getting into the groove of me being a poet. Eventually, he'll just grow into it.

What's your writing process like?

With being a poet for two years now, my process has changed. Before, I would just wait for poetry to come to me and that would give me a poem a month. A lot of my coaches were telling me "you just have to write daily" and I was like "no, I like when poetry comes to me; it's hard to just push things out." And then, it got to a point where I was doing the same poems over and over like "Archeologist" and "Animal," so I was like "Okay, maybe I should start to

write daily." I would listen to a lot of spoken word artist's workshops on YouTube and I would adapt the style of my concept of how to write--I tell other young poets this at the Baltimore Leadership School for Women where I teach--of just writing. Writing poetry is almost like writing in your diary and getting all the concrete things out, getting all the messy things out, getting everything you have to say out, and then you can let it rest or you can look at it and some of the things that don't flow you can cross out or add more in, because once you push all the fluff out of the way and you really get to what you want to talk about, you continue to write. And it's fine to make a little more scribbles and waste some pages. Don't rip the pages out, just keep the pages there to see how far you've come. My process now is to write a lot of concrete things about whatever I'm going to talk about and eventually I'll get to the point where I know exactly what I want to write about and incorporate literary devices and go to poem.

FEATURES

WRITER'S CORNER | Featuring a new creative writer each month

Jean Moore has been writing since she was five years old when she first learned to write her own name. She has since switched to Fiction. She is currently a second year student in the University of Baltimore's Creative Writing and Publishing Arts MFA program. She was born and raised in Highlandtown and currently lives with one dog and four cats in the same rowhouse in which she grew up, returning after an absence of thirty years.

Have You Not Heard?

Rejected Titles: Loose Chickens, Cluck You, Which Came First, Birds of a Feather

A picture showed up on Facebook of two chickens, one red and one white, standing near the Pagoda in Patterson Park. No one knows where they came from as they weren't wearing collars or ankle monitors and had apparently left their wallets in their other pants. This begs the question: Would someone in the city keep live chickens as pets or as potential food? I'm sure the city has special permits or licenses or fees that would make the whole endeavor not worth the hassle, even for the possibility of fresh chicken. Baltimore has a way of over-regulating everything up to and including chickens. (Note: Chickens without proper documentation should register with the FDA. Or is that the MVA?)

What is apparent from the picture is that the chickens themselves are unfazed by either their location (within city limits) or their status (pet v. food).

I wonder what the indigenous avian residents thought of these two newcomers? There had to be questions:

"Where did they come from?"

"They don't look like nobody I've ever seen around here before."

Anyhoo, back to Facebook where the inevitable jokes began in the comments section:

"Must be free-range chickens. LOL"

"Guess the chicken did cross the road. LOL"

Someone suggested calling 3-1-1. I would have loved to have been the operator who received that call as I'm sure it broke up the monotony from the usual litany of calls:

"There's a mattress in my alley."

"There's a mattress on fire in my alley." (I may or may not have been involved in that one.)

"There's a dead (fill in the blank) on the sidewalk."

"There's a drunk (fill in the blank) on the sidewalk."

Now most people (those with initiative) would extricate the offending item themselves, but when help is just a phone call and a complaint away, why bother? Ahh, to live in the first world.

Again, back to Facebook as the story continued in the comments. Someone from animal control showed up with a net on a pole and tried to capture the chickens in question with the assistance of a neighborhood Good Samaritan. What then happened was (cue the Benny Hill music) the animal control person and Good Sam chased said chickens around the Pagoda a couple of times.

Result:

Chickens: 2

Animal Control and Good Sam: 0
Who knew chickens were such good runners? I guess I'd run too if someone was chasing me with a net on a pole. There's a joke in there somewhere, but less us continue.

Apparently the neighborhood has changed. Which is to say (insert tired axiom about change here). No shit Sherlock. 'Nuff said. When I was young, but old enough to go to the park by myself I don't remember there being any chickens. Mostly people doing normal park stuff: walking dogs, playing on the playground, various and sundry sports teams with their accompanying sports balls.

Other, non-normal for lack of a better word, activities took place there as well, mostly after dark and mostly involving teenagers, portable FM radios, beer, tongues and zippers. I didn't find out about those other activities until I was a teenager my-

self. And even then, I thought them mundane. Yes, I was that kind of a teenager, mostly disinterested in my own kind. I found them to be fake:

in appearance: females covered in layers of Cover Girl matte pressed powder makeup, bright blue eyeshadow and way too much eyeliner; males with long feathered hair and tight jeans to show off their bulges, hoping to attract and impress said females.

in attitude: always presenting as a mixture of fake confidence, fake intelligence and fake sexual prowess. So self-assured at the tender age of fifteen.

These teenagers can't be judged too harshly because of all of their fakery. All of their trying on of personalities was necessary to learn who they really were. At the time, however, they were tedious. They were my peers.

I am fortunate to have fond memories of growing up in this neighborhood. Back when I was your age (here we go) no one locked their doors at night, neighbors knew each other and each others' children. It wasn't uncommon for someone else's mother to smack you for 'acting up,' then call your mother and tell her what you did and then when you got home you'd get smacked again. No child of that era even thought to call the police and report their parents for child abuse. It wasn't even a thought much less an option. It wasn't considered abuse. It was considered discipline and a necessary function of being a parent. Come to think of it, I don't remember there being a 'child protective services' back then, even though there probably was. I'm sure CPS was protecting children who really needed it. They were not available to save me from my grandmother and

her yardstick. Or, in extreme cases when I was told, God help me, to "go cut me a switch."

But let's continue with happier memories. Every September, the whole neighborhood turned out to watch the "I Am An American Day" Parade. It was spectacular. Lots of marching bands and cheerleaders. I could feel the beat of the bass drums reverberate in my chest from blocks away. There were baton twirlers (their 'official' name escapes me) and local politicians. Our councilman Dominic "Mimi" DiPeitro and City Comptroller Hyman Pressman were always popular with the crowds, our voting parents and neighbors. Comptroller Pressman marched the whole route, each knee almost touching his chest with each step. He was very enthusiastic for an old guy, as he seemed to me then. He was probably about fifty. They loved Highlandtown and Highlandtown loved them back. There were beauty pageant winners sitting on the top of the back seat of convertible cars and waving to us like they knew us, their tiaras sparkling in the late afternoon sunshine. The Shriners were there too, each topped with red felt fez and tassel. My grandmother allowed me to take the family camera if I promised to take a picture of the Mummies, who came every year from Philadelphia. She liked the Mummies. I, to this day, have no freakin' idea what a 'Mummer' is or what they stand for, if anything. But they were instantly recognizable, so 'click, click, click' went the Kodak Instamatic with the cube-shaped flash, and grandmother was happy.

We used to just call it "the parade." It wasn't until I was an adult that I found out that it had an actual title. An odd title at that. It didn't occur

to my younger self that anyone here in Highlandtown (or Baltimore or Maryland or the United States) wasn't an American, because, well, you're here, aren't you? What else would you be?

Things are different now. We are politically correct. Most people, except the few remaining chicken haters out there, would not intentionally offend anyone because of their race, religion or amount of feathers. We are now 'chicken inclusive.' We have immigrants now. We had immigrants then. Everyone in this country is an immigrant, unless descended from the indigenous peoples of North America. I don't like to call them "Indians," not because it's not politically correct, but because it just highlights how one immigrant (I'm looking at you, Senore Columbus) got lost trying to find India, and now a whole group of people have to live with a name not their own. It's unfair, but, hey, what's isn't?

One can enjoy a myriad, a veritable smorgasbord (if you're of Swedish descent) of ethnic festivals throughout the city. No longer do we singularly celebrate being just an American. We now rightly feel we should celebrate where we came from as well, because we're all immigrants. African-American, German, Middle-Eastern, Greek, Irish, Italian, Mexican, Polish, Asian: all have their own festivals and all have great food and great music. With my extensive mixed heritage, I can go to just about all the festivals and say, Hey, Pisan!

I like being inclusive. I ♥ City Life.

Women are entrepreneurs

Celebrating Women's History Month with local business owners

By SAKINA STAMPER
CONTRIBUTOR

Unless you are a business owner, you probably haven't completed an external environmental analysis recently. In other words, in case you haven't been looking closely, women as entrepreneurs are certainly on the rise. What better way for Women's History Month than to discuss the impact Baltimore women are having in the business world.

Three Baltimore women are doing their part to make history not only for their families, not only for their children, but for the greater good of the world. These Baltimore women are role models for other women who are budding entrepreneurs. Proving that it is possible to be a mother and an entrepreneur, Tammira Lucas, Shantell Roberts, and Carmin Coates are successful business owners, each on a mission to make their own history.

Though people decide to take that leap from employee to entrepreneur for different reasons, it is important to know what some of those reasons are because they may resonate with many other people. "What drove me to want to be an entrepreneur is not having the capabilities to work for someone. Wanting the freedom and to be able to control what I make and how far I go, and not having someone dictate those things for me", said doctoral candidate Tammira Lucas. One of the common qualities of entrepreneurs is the general feeling of not being satisfied working for someone else. Carmin Coates, owner of Soiree Conceptions, LLC, said that "not wanting to work for someone for the rest of my life and building their legacy" lead her to entrepreneurship and having "the opportunity to do things [her] way".

For others, entrepreneurship may come a little differently. Shantell Roberts, founder of Touching Young Lives, Inc. speaks of her road to entrepreneurship a little differently.

"It just kind of happened after the death of my daughter. One of my good friends told me that I should start a foundation in the honor of my daughter. I started doing a lot of research and realized there was a painful problem in my community that I needed to address" said Roberts. There are so many life events that can lead us to realize the many issues and problems in this world that need resolution. Something that can be the one of the worse life experiences can lead to one of the greatest experiences if one sees the opportunity presented between the darkness.

Tammira Lucas is known for seeing an opportunity and immediately taking it by the horns. Twenty-nine years old and already involved in various businesses (The Business Dr. a consulting company, MAE, and the nonprofit RISE). "I always see opportunities out there that I have a passion for. I just see opportunities. I see a problem and it's bothering me so I need to start a business to solve that problem" said Lucas. Starting a business is all about solving problems. If your business does not solve a problem that many people are impacted by, your business will not survive.

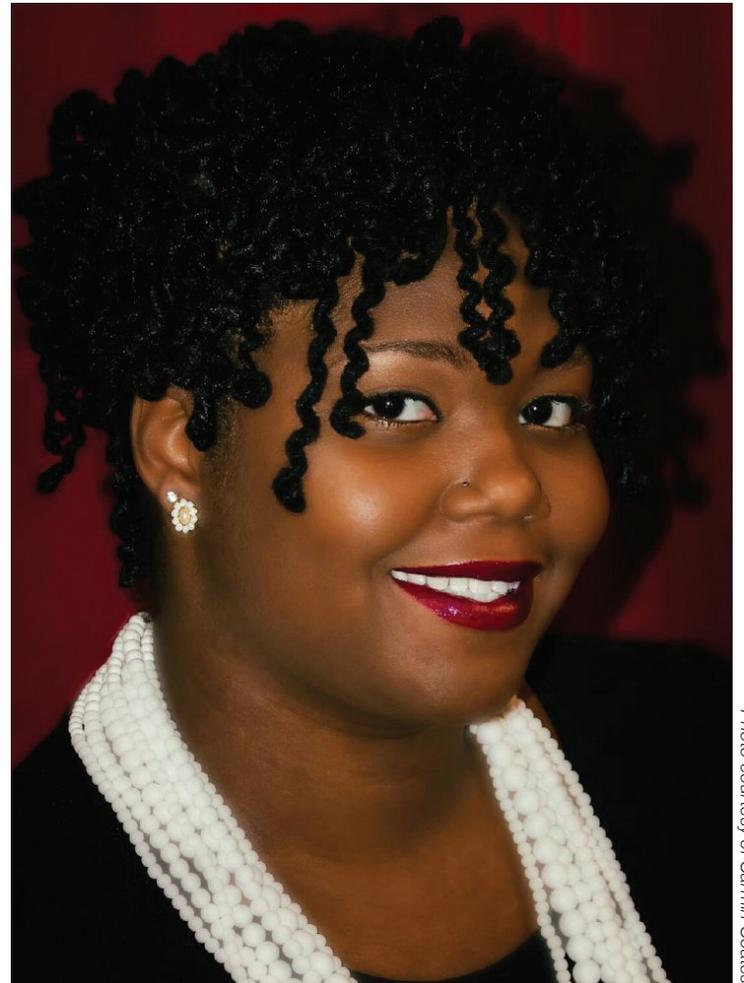
In business ownership, one can never truly be prepared for the highs and lows it presents. For every high, there will be just as many lows, whether silent or loud. Coates describes her one of her lows as business being "a consistent learning process and every lesson is not going to be one that you are going to enjoy. You have to be able to distinguish what's good for your business and what's not". Her business, Soiree Conceptions, LLC is an event planning business, thus one of her highs is "having your client appreciate your work and show their admiration," Coates says. Customer appreciation always goes a long way to the longevity of a business.

However when it comes to operating a non-profit such as Touching Young Lives Inc., securing adequate funding is the key to a successful organization. Roberts speaks to one of her main lows when she says "financially if you are not able to carry out your mission or programming that is a major setback. I hate when I have to compete against another program for funding. Programming can only be as good as its funding". Lucas has experienced this as well with her non-profit RISE. Both ladies have great non-profit organizations that aim to change lives in Baltimore and are not going to allow lack of fluid funding prevent them from working their missions.

There is so much more history to be made in this world and it starts with more women taking the leap of faith from employee to entrepreneur. Many women dream of it, but doubt if they can actually achieve it. The best advice for women out there is to get out of their own way and make it happen, because you can. Roberts says, "If you have a dream, do something every day to make that dream happen". Being an entrepreneur is a dream that can become a reality with hard work, dedication, and "surrounding yourself with other people that help uplift you and take you to where you want to be" Coates adds. You may be scared, but turn that fear into fuel. As Lucas says, "If you don't do it, how will you feel ten years from now? At the end of the day you can't be scared to fail".

For more information on these women entrepreneurs and their businesses, like their businesses on facebook and their websites are below:

www.soireeconceptions.com
www.tamthebizdr.com



Carmin Coates owns an event planning business, Soiree Conceptions, LLC.

Photo courtesy of Carmin Coates



Shantell Roberts, the founder of Touching Young Lives, Inc.

Photo courtesy of Shantell Roberts



Tammira Lucas runs a consulting company.

Photo courtesy of Tammira Lucas

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encourage him not to end up that way.

Young's family, like some Baltimoreans, include those who have struggled with various addictions. He describes his family as, "regular as they come! My grandfather worked at Bethlehem steel. My brother goes to law school here. My sister is the volleyball coach at Mervo. My uncle was a pastor—store front pastor. We're as regular as it comes. Growing up for me was a typical Baltimore life. We stayed over east and my father lived on the west side. We would visit Park Heights. The height of the summer time, Park Heights is what I used to experience. I lived in Northeast where it wasn't as tough and that had to do with my mother's decision. She worked a lot of overtime. She worked a lot of doubles. There were many times where she was working a double and we didn't have no lights because paying the mortgage or the rent was so high but she did it. She didn't want us to grow up in Cherry Hill, where she grew up. She felt like she could give us a better life that way. The reality is where you grow up dictates how successful you will be. I didn't have friends that had guns. I didn't have friends who were drug dealers. Knowing and understanding what everyone faces here but at the same time having a mother that made certain decisions, personally I was effected to make those decisions myself. That's what life was like."

He attended Baltimore Polytechnic institute, later going to New York University, then Harvard University. From being an engineer to Harvard business school, Young feels ready to tackle being the mayor of what some might call a broken city. The conversation ranged from his favorite film to the modern civil rights movement and most importantly, his vision for the future of Baltimore. Young is an approachable guy who loves his city. He carries a traditional Baltimore accent and often accompanies his brother at University of Baltimore's law school. Young is trying to offer

a new perspective to a different and more traditional set of voters. Young didn't exactly have interest in politics, however the Baltimore uprising in April of last year gave him an epiphany:

"I was never really interested in politics. For me, I'm an engineer—aerospace, things that fly. I'm a nerd. Studying engineering is what I enjoy. I had to go to business school for a lot of reasons, one was to define my purpose in life. But also to give myself a broader skillset to do some pretty amazing things, but stay in corporate America and make a lot of money. I graduated from Harvard; I had a number of job offers that I turned down. But what happened in April really hit me.

"I didn't expect to do it immediately...after business school, but April showed me the time is now, no time to wait. The right moment to do something is now, but it wasn't for me to come home and run for mayor but for me to do something.

"Coming home and reconnecting with the community, I noticed everybody is at the table everybody wants to see the city become a better place. But the problem that we have is that we lack leadership and we lack a unified leader that we can all believe in. I see myself as somebody that can do that. For the African-American women and men who hate to see our children on the streets dying every day, someone they can look at and say this is who I want my son to be like. This is the example I want them to follow, so I'm willing to support this person. For the white family who wants to see Black Baltimore have a champion.

"That's what I noticed, everybody agreed these can work, it just takes that one person. I can see myself being the person that can unify it in a nutshell and being a young enough person. People who are dying on the streets are 15, 20, 24, not fifty. I'm 28! They'll listen to me. They'll do that because I've walked their path. I've grown up with them in the same way that a lot of people would say

those traditional politicians have been around for a long time, they have their base with the older voters because they grew up with them."

Young sees his opportunity as mayor as a way to make Baltimore the place he feels it should be. He describes it as a place where everyone knows someone, and a big city with a small town feel. However, the city cannot be that without solving social and economic issue and without unity. Some of his goals include: unifying the city, proper education, and local economics through supporting small businesses. He would like to eliminate the "20th century problems", such as crime, heroin addiction and the illegal drug trade. First, we asked what is meant by unifying the city:

"I'll set the scene for you. First let me say, March 27, 2015 was the day Freddie Gray was laid to rest. A year later is April 2016. April 2016 is the election. The primary. National news is going to be back for the one year anniversary and what will they talk about when they talk about Baltimore?

"Are they talking about rehiring a mayor who betrayed our trust? Hiring others who have been in politics for a long time and have lied to us in different ways? One candidate previously ran and lied about his education, another one is apparently in corporate developer's pockets, and other things. Another person who is riding name recognition from the very unrest that we feel so bad about we have all these people with all these unfavorable.

"Are we talking about them or about Baltimore just turned a page on the past and hired its next mayor—a young energetic, smart guy who can get the job done. That can be the future of the city and lead to 21st century Baltimore. A 21st century Baltimore needs a 21st century mayor and that's what I see myself being able to be for our city when elected. It's not about me. It's about changing the paradigm, changing the conversation and taking command of the conversation.

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