Where does Baltimore go from here?

By Andrew R. Koch
Business Manager

On July 27, Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge Barry Williams found Lieutenant Brian Rice not guilty of all charges against him in the death of Freddie Gray in April 2015. Rice, the highest-ranked officer of the six charged in connection with Gray’s death, was the third officer to be acquitted by Judge Williams in as many bench trials this year. That afternoon, following Rice’s acquittal, Baltimore City State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby held a press conference at the corner of Pennsylvania and North Mount Streets, the intersection where Gray was arrested after running from police in West Baltimore. At that press conference, Mosby announced that she had decided to drop charges against the two officers who hadn’t yet gone to trial – Officer Garrett Miller and Sergeant Alicia White – along with the first officer who was tried, William Porter, whose trial ended with a hung jury in December 2015. Porter’s retrial was scheduled for September. Officer Edward Nero and the driver of the transport van, Caesar Goodson, were acquitted by Judge Williams in their bench trials.

Mosby was highly critical of people in the police department whom she felt sabotaged her office’s investigation into Gray’s death, which was followed by several days of protests throughout the city, and then riots on the day of his funeral. University of Baltimore President Kurt Schmoke, a former Mayor and State’s Attorney for Baltimore City, agreed with Mosby’s decision to drop the charges in the remaining cases.

“Judge Williams demonstrated, in acquitting these other officers, that he didn’t agree with the State’s Attorney’s theory of the case that is that there was criminal activity. He said over and over that there was negligence, which agreed with the city in the city’s decision to settle the civil case,” Schmoke said. In September 2015, the city Board of Estimates approved a $6.4 million settlement to Gray’s family.

In late June, John Banzhaf III, a public interest law professor at George Washington University, filed an ethics complaint against Mosby with the Maryland Attorney Grievance Commission. Banzhaf alleges that Mosby violated several of the Maryland Lawyer’s Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys in her prosecution of the cases against the officers. He wrote in his complaint that some of Mosby’s remarks in announcing the charges on May 1, 2015 also constituted a violation for making “extrajudicial statements.” Banzhaf even went so far as to call on the Attorney Grievance Commission to discipline Mosby as a “runaway prosecutor” in the conclusion to his complaint. Banzhaf also filed the ethics complaint that ultimately led later on that the evidence didn’t meet the standard of “beyond a reasonable doubt.” However, the decision that a prosecutor has to make at this time is whether there is probable cause to move ahead, and I think that at the time, she believed quite faithfully that she had met that probable cause standard.”

A petition has been posted on Change.org by a group called “Citizens Against Domestic Terrorism” to support Mosby and stop the calls for her disbarment. Meanwhile, all of the officers charged in the Gray case, except for Goodson, have filed a lawsuit against Mosby and Major Samuel Cogen of the Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office, alleging false arrest, false imprisonment and defamation of character.

In the wake of Gray’s death, the City Council and Police Department have worked on implementing a number of reforms to improve relations between officers and minority residents. Among the reforms are body cameras for patrol officers, and cameras in the transport vans.

“The information that she had at the time of the decision to prosecute met the threshold of probable cause, and that’s what the prosecutor has to make a decision on, as to whether or not to pursue a criminal case. Clear, both the jury and then the judge support Mosby and stop the calls for her disbarment. Meanwhile, all of the officers charged in the Gray case, except for Goodson, have filed a lawsuit against Mosby and Major Samuel Cogen of the Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office, alleging false arrest, false imprisonment and defamation of character.

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“I also know that professors here at the University of Baltimore, in our Criminal Justice program, will be submitting ideas for improvement in policing, and they have a good, solid track record of making recommendations in other instances, other cities, that have led to improvements” — Kurt Schmoke
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

“A little flattery will support a man through great fatigue.” — James Monroe

KYLE FIERSTIEN
Editor-in-Chief

This is always an exciting time of year when those of us only just arriving face all of the offerings and prospects of university life for the first time, and the rest of us begin to feel the summertime pangs for the busy schedules of the semester shift into the familiar embrace of anxiety — that’s how it is for me anyway. I can’t begin to imagine what it must feel like to stay on for the summer. More of the same, I guess.

This is exactly the kind of distraction most of us need at this point in a presidential election cycle, when the population has separated into the emotionally drained and the tirelessly angry. This election has been especially fascinating, dipping into surreal horror as expertly as a David Lynch film. Being able to see the mechanisms of a modern cult of personality at work has been educating, I guess, and I wasn’t an Italian in 1922, but I have a bit more empathy for those who were on the side of, “hey, maybe not Mussolini?”

On top of all the mental gymnastics I’ve had to do to try to make sense of that business, I’ve been tricked into using my legs under the pretense of taking back what is rightfully mine while they were busy punching the clock. I’m exhausted, definitely in the emotionally drained camp, and ready to feel the sweet burden of homework that might prevent me from paying much attention to the news or leaving my apartment. Hopefully the excitement of this new semester doesn’t turn as quickly as my excitement for the summer did.

As always: if you’d like to send me any questions, comments, concerns, lists of words that bother you, riddles, or if you just need somebody to vent angrily at, I can be reached at editorinchief.ubpost@gmail.com

Signing off,
Kyle Fierstien

This is YOUR headline here

Imagine this is your name. In print.
Let that sink in.

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I Respond with Respect
Integrity and showing care for others are essential components in building a positive campus community. Show your UB Pride! “Bee” a living example of the UB Creed and nominate others who take the time to acknowledge and respect others.

I,  WILL  ACT WITH
INTEGRITY AND RESPONSIBILITY;
SEEK TO UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT THE DIFFERENCES IN OTHERS;
PURSUE KNOWLEDGE;
AND FOSTER EXCELLENCE FOR MYSELF AND MY COMMUNITY

Submit nominations
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UBProud
When I arrived at UB, I first saw it through the lens of orientation. This meant that, while I started the day grumbling over having to sit through hours of peppy faculty members and excited student leaders, I left a peppy freshman – excited about the resources that were suddenly made available to me. Whenever I bring up how pumped orientation actually made me feel I am met with eye rolls and disbelief. I can understand that sentiment: I am typically an un-waveringly low-energy grump, one not easily made to be optimistic. I feel as though it is my duty to defend myself, and in the process maybe help some of the students who missed out on orientation and don’t realize what sorts of things they could be taking advantage of.

I will begin with what got me the most excited during orientation. Located on the third floor of the Student Center is the Career and Professional Development Center. This is a group of wonderful individuals who are paid to sit down with you and help you plan your career path. For many of us, this is exactly the sort of thing we are attending university for in the first place: getting into a career we are passionate about. They host multiple events a year to help students polish their resumes and professional skills.

If you are a flabby neurotic like me, you might be more concerned with your own mental or physical health than your career trajectory. As a University of Baltimore student you have full access to the on campus rec center with your Bee Card, located on the southern half of the third floor of the Academic Center. There you can find a basketball court, weight room, racquetball court, stationary bicycles, treadmills, a small indoor golf range, and more – as well as a desk where you can check out any equipment you might need to enjoy each of the previously mentioned activities. The Rec Center is open from 7 AM-10:30 PM during the week, and 10 AM-4 PM during the weekend.

If it’s emotional well-being you are trying to stay on top of, the university provides a free counseling service to all of it’s students. Located in room 111 of the Academic Center, they allow walk-ins for students using their service for the first time. You can make an appointment by phone or email as well (410.837.5159, counseling@ubalt.edu).

If you are looking for entertainment of a slightly less physical nature than what one might find on the basketball court of the rec center, the game rooms in the lower level of the Student Center might be more your speed. With one of these rooms containing pool and air hockey tables, and the other various gaming consoles, many students looking for a way to blow off steam without the risk of a broken nose or too much sweat spend their time there.

Finally, one of the best resources on campus is your fellow students. Join a club (such as this one: The UB Post), and make a few friends with similar goals and interests. If there aren’t any that you are especially into, why not start one? With a constantly renewed population, university campuses are one of the best places to meet like minded individuals. If the club you are joining (or starting) is somehow involved with your professional interests, these peers might someday become important contacts.

There are many more resources on campus, such as the ALC which exists to help you with your homework. If you missed orientation and are looking for assistance with anything that might remotely involve your life as a college student, it might pay off to ask around.

By Kyle Fierstien
Editor-in-Chief
The best part of interviewing people for these student spotlight articles is getting to meet individuals who are worth writing about. That might mean they are working on some interesting project; it might mean that they have impacted the community in some way or another; it means that they have done something great already, in spite of still being a student. No matter the reason, they can all be said to be successful people. For Aaron Arnold, it isn’t his own success that’s important, it’s the success of the children he volunteers his time to teach.

I feel it is important, at this point, to point out that most fun I’ve had interviewing somebody for the UB Post. Aaron is an incredibly entertaining storyteller, and charming individual; one who cares deeply about his work and the kids he helps. At several points during the interview he would turn the conversation towards a breakthrough he had with one of the students he had during his time with Code in the Schools, or a funny story one of the kids attending the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. During this time he worked at Starbucks, and became friends with one of his customers who he kept in touch with even after he stopped working there and started attending the University of Baltimore. It was during his first semester that he received a phone call from that acquaintance, and, an offer to work for Code in the Schools.

“I did well in the interview, but they needed to see me make a game. So I made a game in a month,” Aaron recalls, using skills he taught himself. “The best way to solve a problem is to fall in love with it.” He rushed to put together something playable, between classes, and in the end he got the job. He spent the rest of the school year travelling around the area to teach after school programs that were meant to introduce children to the basic concepts of putting together code. It was work that was as rewarding as it was frustrating.

“I can’t reinforce lessons learned: I cannot give our homework to make sure they are studying at home. At the end of it I was making up 90 percent of the game. Towards the end it felt like I was giving them bubblegum instead of food.” These challenges seem, to him, more symptomatic of the nature of an after school program than the failings of the kids themselves; in fact he seems more eager than ever to continue on in this work. “I want to make games either exclusively for children, or I want to teach kids to make videogames. I would love to see kids do wonderful things. In a patriotic way it does make us more competitive with other countries if we use our resources to the max, and kids are a resource. My biggest reward would be that my kids will make games that I can play. I am perpetually interested. And they will be a thousand times better than any thing I will make.”
Enter Stage Left
Performance Studies Concentration Coming to UB

By Bryonna Edwards
Contributor

UB is about to become a lot more dramatic with the roll out of the new Integrated Arts: Performance Studies concentration this fall semester 2016. This degree program is unlike many performance studies offered by surrounding institutions. Students in this concentration will not only learn competitive acting skills, but will learn the business of being an actor and entrepreneur. The University of Baltimore is situated in the middle of a growing hot-bed for new and established theatres such as Center Stage, Hippodrome, Meyerhoff, Everyman Theatre, Single Carrot, Stillpointe, and Chesapeake Shakespeare Company just to name a few. Thespians have made it impossible to walk a few blocks in any direction in midtown without running into a theatre, or pop up production, varying in professionalism. There couldn’t be a better time for UB to start a program that caters to the performance art community. Heavy hitters in Baltimore’s theatre scene such as Donald Hickens; theater department head of the Baltimore School of the Arts, Kimberly Lynne; theater arts manager at UB, instructor, and marketing manager for the Performance Studies concentration, Everyman Theatre, and the Hippodrome have invested their expertise into nursing this concentration from conception to reality.

Now UB and prospective students have an opportunity to learn professional performance techniques taught by working actors from the Baltimore area—specifically from the Everyman Theatre. Kimberley Lynne explained in an interview that the program is, “very unique and fits into knowledge that works and the whole mentoring situation. The reason why Donald Hicks wrote to work with Everyman is because they have resident acting company members—those people live here. Beth Hyton, Bruce Nelson, and Deborah Hazlett are all members of this community. If a student develops a relationship with them, they can maintain that because they’re here.”

UB is known for our business and law schools. We often get that arts can be integrated into our education model “knowledge that works”. In my interview with Kimberley Lynne I asked why UB should care about a concentration in arts, and the explained that the arts is an important component of critical thinking. She stated, “We can use arts to interpret this incredibly complicated reality. And arts are also, at the core of it, critical thinking. And critical thinking helps you problem solve. The business world is finally coming to its senses and realizing that a broad humanities based education is actually better than something that is narrow and focused that doesn’t really teach you how to critically think and how to stand back from a problem and to attack it.”

The higher-level courses available for students in this concentration consist of four ensembles, based on grade level, that students will be required to audition into. However, there will be lower level performance classes available to all UB students that are interested in sharpening their speaking, acting, literature interpretation, and arts entrepreneurial skills. Lynne encourages all concentrations to take performance courses. “Teaching to performance should be a necessary part of the entire curriculum. It doesn’t matter if you’re in psych or history or business, because at some point in your life you’re going to have to make a presentation.”

The possibilities for a working actor will expand if students major in this concentration. In a society that values versatility and a broad knowledge in business, technology, and humanities, one would be smart to enroll now.

You have tried to learn programming from scratch. But every time you think you are making a substantial improvement, you find yourself back at the starting point. It is not your fault. Learning to code is a complicated process. It is easy to get lost, but you can utilize the initial struggle in many ways and transform it to grand success. When it comes to programming, there is no sure shot path. So, what does a beginner do?

A beginner can follow proven ways to learn programming for free. It doesn’t matter which aspect of programming you are interested in; the proven techniques will always help you improve after starting online without much delay, let’s get started.

1. Broadcast your learning process
2. Practice, practice, and practice
3. To do tons of projects
4. Get on the collaboration train
5. Open source contribution
6. Competitive programming

## 1. Broadcast your learning process

Broadcast your learning process at a rapid pace, it is not surprising to see people broadcast their product development on Livecoding. For example, Inshbloty is a junior software developer from Denver Colorado who is polishing and improving her skills by broadcasting her coding live.

As a beginner, you can also take advantage of the website and share your learning process with the whole world. Livecoding boasts a community from 194 countries worldwide. Furthermore, you can get feedback from experienced, professional engineers working at Google, Facebook, SAP, etc.

## 2. Practice, practice, and practice

Learning to program is not an easy task. The number one proven way to learn programming is to practice a lot. Programming requires patience, resilience, and a ton of practice to become good. Initially, you will find yourself struggling to do the simple problems. But with time, you will come to solve problems on your own. Eventually, you will be able to think of the solutions by yourself—without any help from Google—and this is where you will start transitioning into the intermediate level. This is where you can finally move to the next stage of programming.

## 3. To do tons of projects

When you are online, you will find small problems to solve. They will surface at that particular moment, but you need to shift your focus to projects. It doesn’t really matter on which type of project you are working. It can be simple, complex, small, big—it will help you garner your skills.

Always try to find projects that interest you. For example, you can use a project discovery tool to find projects based on different technologies. Fiddling with the projects will help you build something that has real value. It is also vital to find a motive in your learning. Always look out for real-world problems that you can solve through your programming skills.
Alexis Bates is an emerging poet and writer that forces people to reflect on how they relate to topics such as self-perception and mental illness. You can read her work in Doll Hospital, The Passed Note, and others. Her chapbook, Fighting Pretty, is forthcoming from Varsity Goth Press.

(uns)desirable

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touch touch touch
I want to move away from

goose
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almost enjoys it
but I am scared more

I am lonely
You get used to The Lonely.
It's safer than the threat of bad small talk and rejection.

Queer Dating

I had never been afraid of cities until he told me
We should leave affection at home where there are no guns
no gunmen

Email editorinchief.ubpost@gmail.com if you're interested in submitting short stories or poems.
The Olympic Games are great for venting national pride and getting to see people do sports you’ve never heard of. This year residents of Maryland experienced more than just national pride, as it was slowly revealed, in event after event, that whatever mutant gene runs through Michael Phelps’ DNA was probably caused by something in the water of the DMV. These athletes in particular, all born in and/or residing in Maryland currently, did us proud by bringing home medals.

*While many of these athletes hold medals and records in their sport of choice, we are only highlighting their winnings in the Olympic Games.
The disappointment that is No Man’s Sky
Procedural generation’s place in gaming

By Kyle Feistien
Editor-in-Chief

On August 9th the highly anticipated No Man’s Sky was released for the Sony Playstation 4, as well as for Microsoft Windows. The community seemed desperate to play it, and at launch there were 212,620 people playing it via Steam, according to Valve’s numbers — much more than any other title released through the platform this year. Now, less than a month after it’s release, customers have begun to ask for refunds en masse, the sales have dropped by 81 percent, and the customer reviews are largely negative. So what went wrong?

For most players, it’s the feeling of desperate emptiness that pervades the game. When Sean Murray of Hello Games, the development and publishing company that created No Man’s Sky, was making his promotional rounds, the main focus of the game seemed to be (seemingly) endless, (seemingly) infinite, impossibly unlimited gameplay. The game boasts 18,445,744,073,709,571,686 procedurally generated planets that can all be explored by the player, and harvested for all their resources. That game’s galaxy is with planets.

Dwarf Fortress, first released in 2006 (for free). This game is known to be the inspiration for the wildly successful Minecraft, was exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art in 2013 (for the results of it’s procedural generation engine, in fact), and continues to be updated regularly by it’s two creators who survive only on the donations of the game’s fans (again, this game is available for free on their website).

What is the difference between Dwarf Fortress and the previously mentioned games? To put it simply, the procedural generation moves inward, creating depth to a limited game world, rather than outward creating vast, empty nothingness. The player chooses a world size, and the engine moves inward creating a rich world history full of rising and falling empires, religions, named geographic locations, important artifacts and figures, fully populated cities; all of which have full in game descriptions and can be explored and interacted with by the player.

No two games of Dwarf Fortress are the same, whereas it feels like every planet explored by a player in No Man’s Sky is just a slightly different colored version of the last.

Dwarf Fortress can be downloaded and experienced at the Adams’ brothers’ website: http://www.bay12games.com/com/serious/