

UB | POST

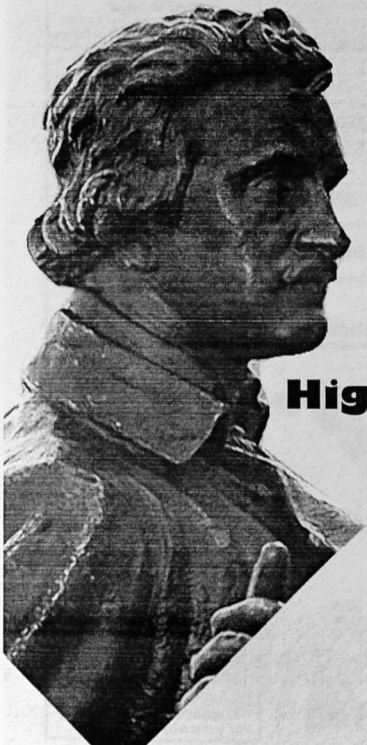
September 29, 1999

**Poe
Says**

NO!

To

High Book Prices



Inside:

features

- 8 Textbook Prices, Student Frustration Rising
- 4 Jay's Takeout Moves In To Poe's
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UB|POST

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Editors' Note

Welcome to *UBPost*'s second year on campus.

Many of you know that UB's student newspaper has an inconsistent past. Previous incarnations have included *UB Scene*, *Ubsque*, and, of course, *Clash*, which made a single appearance and quickly died. A student newspaper was not a regular feature of campus life. We're changing that.

UBPost is back. We've kept our name and many staffers. We've streamlined our design and added a "cover of the month" feature. And we've listened to our audience. We sent opinion surveys into classrooms this summer (and will again this fall) and asked what you want to see in your student newspaper. Stay tuned for the results.

We've gotten to know you better through demographic data. We weren't surprised to learn that well over half of you live in Baltimore City and County. We were surprised to learn that nearly half of you are full-time students. About 55% of you are female and the number is rising (while male enrollment falls). Sixty-six percent of you are between the ages of 25 and 40 (although a growing number of you are between 30 and 59). And though historically you've not reflected the diversity of our urban environment, that too is changing as more African American and international students enroll.

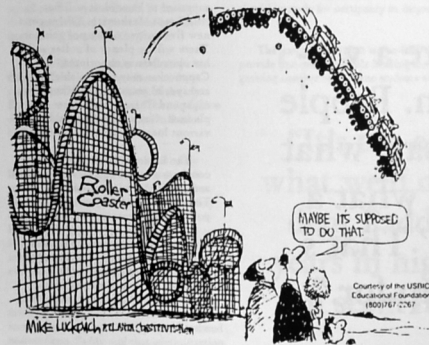
We know that most of you don't participate in extracurricular activities. You work, attend class, care for families, pay bills, run errands, study, and do homework. Why care about school issues? Who has time to attend events and get involved? That's where we step in.

We will do our best to involve you—or at least to interest you—by offering current, accurate, provocative information on campus issues and events. We will do our best to enrich UB by improving communication among students, cultures, organizations, and ethnic groups. In doing this, we hope to lessen widespread apathy on our unique commuter campus.

Remember, *UBPost* is you. We need your help to meet our goals. We want to shed light on your concerns, answer your nagging questions, and celebrate your successes. E-mail us at smcdonald@ubmail.ubalt.edu or call us at (410) 837-4029. Or drop a note in the *UBPost* suggestion box just outside the Center for Student Involvement in Academic Center, Room 114.

Read us regularly—and keep in touch.

The Editors



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Corrections

In a May 11, 1999 article on teacher evaluations (*Students Give Teachers a Grade*), student Chris DiSomma was quoted as saying, "I think [teacher evaluations] are crap." Due to editorial error, this quote from an unidentified student was merged with DiSomma's quote. DiSomma did not make that statement. *UBPost* regrets the error.

Jay's Takeout Moves In To Poe's

By Philippa Barcum

At least in name, Poe's Publick House is no more. Jay's Restaurant Group, which caters many UB functions, won a two-year contract to operate the cafeteria, Raven's Roost, and the Business Center food cart.

The cafeteria reopened in late August as Jay's Deli at UB, offering an expanded menu, longer hours, and a commitment to good service. Raven's Roost expects to open in mid-September.

"We take pride in what we do," says Jay's manager at UB, Joe Markowitz. "Our goal is to come into work with a good attitude. We're here to take care of your needs and do it in higher class."

UB will now have cafeteria service Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The menu includes an assortment of breakfast items (including a \$1.99 breakfast special), sandwiches, salads, and grilled food. So far, business has been good.

Business student Vikram Talwar likes the new morning hours and says, "I can grab something on the way to

class. The \$1.99 breakfast is good. The ham was too salty, but the quantity was incredible for the price."

"I think we're a welcome addition. People come in and say 'what a nice place, what a nice change.' That's what I get up for."



Photo courtesy of Brenda Phillips

Jay Markowitz: Jay's manager at the Raven's Roost looks forward to serving more University of Baltimore students, faculty, and staff.

Raven's Roost will be open Monday through Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The menu will include pizza, sandwiches, poppers, and beer. "If it's supposed to be hot, it will be hot. And if it's supposed to be cold, it will be cold," says Markowitz. "We've got a new five-burner coffee pot going in. There will be plenty of coffee and hot chocolate in the winter." Cappuccino may be available, too, and special menu events, like Italian night and Chinese night, are planned. Coupons are available at various locations around campus.

The Business Center cart will continue to serve coffee, soft drinks, and snacks Monday through Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Markowitz is happy to be here at UB and promises good food, good service, and reasonable prices. "I think we're a welcome addition. People come in and say 'what a nice place, what a nice change.' That's what I get up for."

University Official Defends New Properties

By Sherri McDonald

Student dormitories are not UB's latest service initiative. Rumors continue to circulate after last spring's acquisition of a group of buildings in the 1200 block of North Charles Street. Students have questioned the purpose of student dormitories at an urban, commuter school with a working adult population. Don Paddy, vice president for finance, set the record straight.

"The west side of the 1200 block of North Charles Street was bought by a legal partnership between University Properties, Inc., an arm of the UB Foundation, and Stan Keyser Development Corporation," Paddy said. The UB Foundation includes the Alumni Association and is independent of the university.

The university does not own the property but does have an option to buy it after five years. In five years, "if it's a manageable project, we can buy (the buildings) at a bargain amount," he said. It's expensive—a six million dollar project—but with federal and state historic-district tax credits, the actual purchase price should be far less. Paddy emphasized that no student fees were used or will be used in the project.

The buildings contain retail shops on the first floor with apartments on the second and third floors. Most of the top floor apartments are vacant. The acquisition does not include the First Union Bank building.

University involvement is currently limited to consulting only. "I have made recommendations with a view toward our long-term ownership," said Paddy, "but my involvement has been very indirect so far. My job is to ensure that students' needs are kept in mind as renovations are made, such as the installation of computer ports in every room."

The partnership's goal is to provide market price apartments to renters in the surrounding community—both students and non-students. Paddy said that administration

officials "looked at rents in the area and housing costs at other schools. These rents are not locked in yet, but they will be slightly lower than area market rates and higher than area dormitory rates." Paddy noted that students and non-students will pay the same rate for a similar apartment.

[Don] Paddy emphasized that no student fees were used or will be used in the project.

Occupancy is first-come, first-served; students will not be given preferred treatment. "Obviously, we will recommend this option to our students and promote it on campus, but students won't be guaranteed apartments," he added. The buildings should be ready for occupancy in August of 2000.

The goal of the project is two-fold: to provide first-rate, accessible housing for the growing number of full-time students who

commute to campus from outside the Baltimore area, and to support economic development in the community. "We used UB demographics and other studies," said Paddy, "to determine that, on any given day, we have about 400 to 450 students looking for housing close to campus. Our surveys showed that of these, about 150 students were already living in this zip code—sometimes in sub-standard housing. With this purchase, we can potentially help 300 to 400 of them."

Paddy would not speculate on changes that may occur after UB exercises its option to buy. "It's too early to predict what we'll do," he said. "Five years in higher education can seem like a lifetime."

UB's purchase of the familiar Crestar Building in the 1300 block of North Charles Street has also generated campus rumors. Students and faculty in the Publications Design program have looked forward to leaving their cramped quarters in Charles Royal for the spacious building now widely referred to as "Pub Design's new home," Paddy said. "There is some truth to that. We are in negotiations with the owner over the price. The state has allocated funds in escrow." Like the 1200 block project, the goal is two-fold: to expand the liberal arts program (including Pub Design) and possibly to house some administrative offices, although this still undecided.

"It's too early to predict what we'll do," [Vice President Paddy] said. "Five years in higher education can seem like a lifetime."

New African American Students Welcomed

By Sherri McDonald

UB welcomed new African American students with encouragement and support at the African American Student Roundtable on August 31. Dinner in the business school atrium followed two panel discussions in the auditorium. Lisa G. Swaby-Rowe, director of the Office of Diversity Education and Programs, moderated the roundtable, which is hosted by her office each fall and spring semester. Approximately 60 students attended the event.

Swaby-Rowe opened by discussing the importance of the roundtable and how her office helps international and minority students. President Turner, Dean Stenberg (liberal arts), Dean Hatfield (business), and Associate Dean Davison (law) followed with brief introductory remarks. Dr. Hatfield noted, "We're proud that 20% of our students are African American, and your prospering in our program is very important to us."

Swaby-Rowe asked the first panel to address "How do I transition from community college to UB?" Panel participants were Regina Benta (business school professor), David DeChant (business school associate director), Lenneal Henderson (public policy professor), Linda Mason (law school alumna), and Beth Mizell (director of the Academic Resource Center).

Henderson stressed three things that set UB apart from community college: critical thinking, independence, and professional development. Benta agreed, saying, "More than ever, you are the subject of your education. You can be in control of it. Forge a long-term perspective and everything will flow from there." DeChant reminded students, "You are now going from the minors to the majors. Expand your mind, create a vision, implement a plan, write down your goals." He also stressed the importance of coming to class prepared: "It's a disservice to your class and your instructor to do otherwise."

Mizell encouraged students to manage their time by "finding efficiencies," such as reviewing class notes regularly and combining unlikely tasks. "Review for class by talking to your spouse about what you've learned. If you interest someone else in your material, you will be more interested." Henderson advised students to incorporate their student lives into their professional lives by starting now to seek professional mentors

and to join professional organizations. He added, "I tell my classes that UB will even pay for their first year professional membership. Then they're on their own."

DeChant stressed the importance of technology and on-campus resources, saying, "Learn to love the library and the Internet. Take a librarian to lunch."

[Associate Director]
DeChant reminded students, "You are now going from the minors to the majors. Expand your mind, create a vision, implement a plan, write down your goals."

After a short break, a second panel addressed "How do I develop a support system for myself?" Panel participants were Irvin Brown (liberal arts associate dean), Phillip Duvall (Student Government Association president), Steve LaBash (head resource librarian at Langside Library), Tracy Ratcliff (UB alumna now on staff in the admissions office), and Ellen Zinner (provost office).

Brown told students to "take advantage of programs just like this. Faculty, advisors, alumni, and colleagues can help you. Actively seek them out." Zinner emphasized the strengths of new African American students: "You've got a lot already in your back pocket. You've made it through community college. Because you are here, most of [your support system] is already working."

The panelists emphasized the importance of joining student groups and even starting new ones, if necessary. Brown encouraged students to take themselves known to their professors. "Professors have contacts out in the field. You never know when you are going to meet someone who will help you." Benta noted that busy students must "take

advantage of technology. A lot of material is on-line, which can save you a lot of time and frustration. Technology breaks down barriers and opens up the world."

DeChant encouraged students to "seek out someone from another culture. There is no such thing as a domestic business anymore."

All panel participants acknowledged that student life must not be all work—play is important, too. Balance is key to survival. Benta reminded students, "Life is uncertain. Eat dessert first. Enjoy your family. Your kids and your spouse may not wait four years for you to re-surface." Duvall added, "Remember, it's about the journey, too. Enjoy where you are in the here and now. Slow down a little bit. In the final analysis, all you'll have are your memories."

Student Government Association 101

By Brad Benta

The Student Government Association (SGA) is an important force at UB. However, many students don't understand how it's structured, what it does for them, or how their fees support it. What exactly is the SGA? What are its plans for this academic year?

The SGA serves as the official representative body for all UB students. As a decision-making, executive body for all student organizations, it distributes and oversees allocated funds. It consists of four sub-governments: the Student Senate, the Graduate Liberal Arts Council (GLAC), the Graduate Business Association (GBA), and the Student Bar Association (SBA). The SGA

is composed of eight elected officers, two from each sub-government.

The SBA represents law students. The Student Senate represents undergraduates from both the liberal arts and business program. The GLAC represents graduate liberal arts students. The GBA represents graduate business students. All four sub-governments represent and support a variety of student clubs and organizations.

The Student Events Board (SEB) plans performances, schedules speakers, and coordinates other special student events. The SEB is not an elected body. The director of the CSI selects its board members.

The student governments are funded from student fees. Allocations are based on the number of students each sub-government represents. They are calculated as follows:

- \$2 x each student goes to the SGA
- \$2 x each student goes to the SEB
- \$11 x each undergraduate student goes to Student Senate
- \$11 x each graduate business student goes to the GBA
- \$11 x each graduate liberal arts student goes to the GLAC
- \$16 x each law student goes to the SBA

We spoke with leaders of the various governments to find out what initiatives are planned for this year.

SGA president Phillip Duvall thinks that the lack of on-campus day care may be hurting enrollment at UB. He says, "All community colleges have [day care]. I don't understand why we can't have it."

Wayne St. George Nelms, Student Senate president, wants students to know that the Student Senate exists to make their lives easier. "One of our missions this year is to increase our presence here at the university," says Nelms. "The Student Senate is an undergraduate government...if there are issues, students should feel free to come to the senate to help them address those issues."

Rodney Boone, GLAC president, said, "We'll be doing things to try and get students more involved, but nothing is set in stone yet."

Charles Wilson, SBA, could not be reached for comment by press time on upcoming initiatives for his organization.

If you have questions or want more information on the SGA, please contact any of the government leaders shown in the sidebar accompanying this article or contact the CSI at (410) 837-5417.

SGA Officers 1999-2000

Student Government Association (SGA)
Phillip Duvall, president
Raymond Holmes, vice president
Kim Pulley, secretary
Cindy Taylor, treasurer

Graduate Business Association (GBA)
Oleh Voloshyn, president
Aybars Kizilsencer, vice president
Johann Allender, secretary/treasurer

Graduate Liberal Arts Council (GLAC)
Rodney Boone, president
Tannia Elvir, vice president
Tim Tülghman, secretary/treasurer

Undergraduate Student Senate
Wayne St. George Nelms, president
Jeremy Lupoli, vice president
Brenda Phillips, business manager
Linda Butler, treasurer

Student Bar Association (SBA)
Charles Wilson, president
Derek Challenger, day vice president

Student Events Board (SEB)
John Garrett, president
Jamon Wiggs, vice president
Damon Wallace, treasurer
Angela Milardo, secretary
Lisa DiPaula, tech coordinator
T. Andre Yance, promotions coordinator
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Textbook Prices, Student

By Ursula Hall

"The bookstore just rips off the students," says Oleh Volohyn, MBA student and Graduate Business Association (GBA) president. "They have no mercy at all." A co-founder of the Student Book Exchange, he expresses the frustration many students feel over rising textbook prices—and disappointing buy-back rates.

We talked to students, administrators, and booksellers to shed light on the issue. Students blame the bookstore; the bookstore blames greedy publishers and tardy instructors; instructors blame bookstore management. One thing is certain: students are losing out.

Joanne Jones, manager of UB's bookstore (which is owned and operated by Follett Higher Education Group—not UB) says that retail, used, and buy-back price standards are set in a national database used by college bookstores across the country. UB and Follett contract with various educational publishers

for five years to sell books at suggested retail prices in this database. There is a mark-up, but Don Paddy, UB vice president for finance, says, "Our mark-up is the national average." UB earns a commission on the bookstore's gross sales—10.6% on sales less than two million dollars, then 11.1% on sales over that.

Price setting is not arbitrary; the used book price is 25% less than retail, the buy-back price is 50% less than retail. For example, a \$50.00 book sells used for \$37.50; if it will be used the next semester, the bookstore can buy it back for \$25.00. "We must abide by these prices because we are audited by the state," says Jones. However, certain conditions apply. Timing and the law of supply and demand can wreak havoc on this scenario.

"The ordering deadline for fall semester is April 15," says Jones, "but I'm lucky if I have 50% of [instructors'] orders then." She follows up with two reminder letters, then phone calls, then personal visits. If she still has no order, she goes to the instructor's dean. Without an order or an instructor's indication that a textbook will be used the next semester, she must turn students away at the buy-back register. If Jones gets the instructor's order after the buy-back deadline, she must order new copies of books that otherwise might have been available used. Students return the next semester to find last semester's textbooks—which they couldn't sell—on the shelves new, causing many to wonder if profits are more important than students are.

"Usually the bookstore buys back only a fixed number of books for the next semester—at about \$15 a book," adds Volohyn. "Then they put them on the shelves at \$70. That's a 400% profit." Not true, claims Jones. "We always try to get used books first if at all possible." She says orders are filled by three sources: first from students during book buy-back, then from wholesalers, then finally from publishers. If few students sell back their books, she must find other sources. "A



Photo courtesy of Brenda Phillips

50% Buyback Guarantee: This new policy affects only marked books. Will it alter student opinion?

professor will turn in an order for 50 books," explains Jones. "If I get 20 books back from students, I still need 30. I might find 20 at a wholesaler, but then I have to buy the last 10 from the publisher new." If a student brings a book back after the order is placed, he or she gets the wholesale price—or nothing—for it.

For the first time this semester, instructors have been able to order books on-line. Response has been good; Jones is cautiously optimistic that this will remedy some instructors' tardiness.

Other factors can drive prices up. Jones notes that publishers can demand higher prices for books needed in specialized classes with limited enrollments. And if an instructor orders a new edition, the old edition will be worthless—even if it includes just a different introduction or a new cover. Books that are mass-produced, like paperbacks, have little or no buy-back value, either. They print so many so often," says Jones, "that if it is in its fourth or fifth printing, the third printing is worthless." She can sell earlier printings—and buy them back—but the instructor must

Frustration Rising

specifically tell her to do so. Otherwise, students are out of luck.

Of course, if stock is plentiful, value goes down. Jones is careful not to overstock by assessing class histories before ordering. "We look at the instructor's anticipated number of students and whether the class has been routinely cancelled or over-enrolled. A lot of deductions happen before the order is placed," says Jones.

On the other hand, some faculty members report that the bookstore is less than helpful at times and seems much more interested in its own bottom line than in finding the best books at the best prices. A number of instructors we interviewed recall that the bookstore has told them that certain books were out of print or unavailable, when the same books were indeed available in retail stores at reasonable prices. "At least twice in recent years," one instructor comments, "I've had to buy the books myself and 'sell' them to students because the bookstore claimed it couldn't get these books. I've never quite figured out what the story was here, but these situations cause unnecessary turmoil and don't earn the bookstore much trust or good will."

The situation worsens when publishers relentlessly court busy instructors who then hastily order without considering the consequences. Don Paddy offers a good example. "Publishers might interest an instructor in a 'shrink-wrapped product,'" says Paddy. "Although their textbook is the same, students find that they can't sell it back because it isn't shrink-wrapped." When Paddy asked one instructor if he really needed the supplement, he replied, "No, I never use them, anyway."

"Custom books" are a problem, too. Jones says that publishers obtain copyright approval to reprint chapters from a variety of textbooks and then offer them to instructors as compilations. She says, "These books have no buy-back value at all. If a professor specifically tells me it will be used again, I can do a manual override in the database to buy it back." If she's not told, students leave the register empty-handed.

Booksellers see high prices as an issue between professors and publishers. Independent book broker Will Murray says that instructors and publishers "are in cahoots to maintain rip-off prices. The professors want those free books the publisher's rep gives them. And, of course, many of them have dreams of getting rich by authoring a famous textbook."

Textbook selection is always up to the individual instructor. However, for introductory or core courses, other department members will review the options and attempt to find a common text and a common syllabus. "More than one set of eyes looks at the selections and has input into the decision," says Paddy. Thus, books retain their value longer and students save money.

An increasing number of students are ordering textbooks through on-line booksellers, such as www.sursitybooks.com and www.bn.com (Barnes and Noble). Are on-line book sellers serious competitors for the UB bookstore? "Yes, it's true we can be more expensive than the on-line stores," says Paddy, "but, of course, we have sales tax and they don't. But, yes, if you look hard enough, you can find a better price."

Jones hasn't seen much impact on sales so far, probably because the sells so many other products, such as CDs, general interest books, and software at discounted education prices. And Jones thinks in-person shopping is still preferable for many students. "We're here to provide a service, to offer a hands-on personal touch."

The Student Government Association-sponsored in-person Student Book Exchange has yet to affect bookstore sales. The semi-annual event gives students an opportunity to register books for sale or purchase and to network with fellow students. Although turnout for this year's exchange was low, Oleh Volohyn is optimistic. "Our goal is to make

(Continued Textbooks, Page Fifteen)

How do booksellers add up?

| Bookseller | New | Used |
|------------|-----|------|
|------------|-----|------|

Strategic Management: Concepts and Cases
Arthur A. Thompson and A. J. Strickland

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| UB Bookstore www.sursitybooks.com www.bn.com www.yourbookconnection.com | \$92.60 \$83.60 \$92.75 \$84.80 | not available not available not available \$67.13 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|

Organizational Behavior and Change
Joseph W. Weiss

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| UB Bookstore www.sursitybooks.com www.bn.com www.yourbookconnection.com | \$63.25 \$59.15 \$62.75 not available | \$47.50 not available not available not available |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|

The New Communications Technologies
Michael M. A. Mirabito

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| UB Bookstore www.sursitybooks.com www.bn.com www.yourbookconnection.com | \$34.20 \$28.86 \$30.55 \$33.24 | \$25.70 not available not available \$26.32 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|

Why So Much?

1) Some textbooks are written for a very narrow market that has limited sales potential. The costs of creating and publishing the text must be spread over a relatively small number of sales.

2) Texts are content perishable. Changes in the real world and new research findings cause facts and theories to change and/or become obsolete.

3) Many lower division course texts are produced on speculation that a new author or a new title will capture a significant market share. When these expectations aren't met, the cost of producing them must be added to the costs of producing successful titles.

4) Publishers milk their successful textbook "cash cows," by doing such things as "bulking" the books with extra wide margins and needless white space. Some particularly profitable books are only available in hard cover.

5) Publishers have the used book market. Every used book sale is lost profit. This leads to revised editions that may be unnecessary and unworthy.

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Spotlight On...Peer Networking

By Sherri McDonald

"We are a friend in need. We're someone who's there to help you through your first semester. You can feel safe and secure with us." This is how Aishani Jayasuriya describes UB's Peer Network Program. An international student and a former advisee herself, Jayasuriya now guides new students through the first seven weeks of UB student life. In fact, she is peer advising ten students this semester.

The Peer Network Program calls itself "the unofficial, uncensored, insider's view on surviving, thriving, or just plain enjoying

students are generally coming here from community college experiences. Student life at an upper division university can be very different. The Peer Network picks up where traditional orientation leaves off."

The program is generally restricted to first year UB students, although returning students who find themselves in a crisis can also be accommodated if a Peer Advisor is available. And last year, first year international graduate students were allowed access to the program.

Peer advisors must have earned at least 12 credits at UB with at least a 2.5 GPA (nine credits) and a 3.0 GPA for graduate students). Other selection criteria include leadership experience, "people" skills, familiarity with the UB experience and campus life, interest or participation in other cultures, and accessibility via phone, e-mail, an on-campus job, etc.

Mizell says that the Peer Network is especially helpful "for students who don't have a good source of support at home. A large percentage of our students are first-generation college students. Student peers offer understanding and encouragement that these students may not receive elsewhere."

Evelyn DelRosario, a graduate legal studies student, was one of Aishani Jayasuriya's advisees. "I wasn't able to attend the official orientation," she says. "Aishani was great about helping me get to know the school and the campus and with getting connected through e-mail. She's one of my best friends now." Like Jayasuriya, DelRosario enjoyed the program so much that she too is now a Peer Advisor.

At the end of each year, Mizell surveys advisees to gauge satisfaction with the program. The results are impressive. An average of ninety-three percent of advisees felt comfortable enough to discuss problems or concerns with their Peer Advisors. Ninety-seven percent reported feeling more welcome at UB; eighty-two percent reported participating in a UB event or activity that they would not have participated in otherwise. Eighty percent reported that they were more likely to continue their education at UB as a result of the program.

Peer Advisors benefit from the program as well. They earn a \$200 stipend for approximately 25-30 hours of orientation, meetings, and contact with three new students during the first seven weeks of the semester. Participation can enhance leadership, communication, and problem solving skills. And it's an excellent addition to a resume. "It's a particularly good resume-builder for those in more technical fields, such as accounting or technology, or for those with little opportunity to work with diverse populations," says Mizell.

The program offers intangible rewards as well. "I've made such great friends, and they are so diverse," says Jayasuriya. "It's 'a feel good' thing. It's been a lot of fun and a personal growth experience. You feel good about yourself because you are getting people connected who really need your help."

Both Jayasuriya and DelRosario admit that, in a busy commuter school, some advisors are less responsive than others. Regardless, advisors maintain contact

Eighty percent [of the advisees surveyed] reported that they were more likely to continue their education at UB as a result of the program.

through regular voice messages and e-mails.

"The thing to keep in mind," says DelRosario, "is that it's not personal. But at the end of the semester, it's always great to hear, 'It was good to know you were there for me if I needed it.'"

If you need a Peer Advisor, or if you would like to become one, call Beth Mizell at (410) 837-5383 or stop by the Academic Resource Center in the Activities Center, Room 111. Applications can also be obtained from the Center for Student Involvement, Activities Center, Room 114. You can e-mail Beth Mizell at bmizell@bmail.ubalt.edu.

UB Student Produces Television Show

By Sharon Smith

On Friday, June 11, 1999, Sylvideo Productions introduced a hot new cable television show entitled *The Sylvideo Show*. The show is hosted and produced by Sylvia Allen, a UB Corporate Communications major concentrating on video production. The show airs new videos from various Rap, R&B, Jazz, and Reggae artists and also spotlights new artists, emerging artists, and local talent.

The Sylvideo Show provides informative reviews of various music videos, analyzing image, mood, creativity, and promotional effectiveness. Viewers can choose Sylvideo Super Star hot picks by e-mail or by writing the show.

Allen says, "I chose a review format because I wanted to educate the audience to

allow them to appreciate the art of producing a music video." The program format includes videographers, producers, artists, and media consultants. Each guest will bring to the show his or her professional knowledge of what it takes for a music video to promote a song.

Viewers can check out *The Sylvideo Show* on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on TCI cable channel 5. For more information, contact Sylvideo Productions by e-mail at sylvideo2000@yahoo.com or by writing to *The Sylvideo Show*, P.O. Box 16572, Baltimore, MD 21217.

Commentary

By D. Colston McCreed

A recent story on NPR chronicled a controversy over South Carolina's insistence on flying the Confederate flag over the state capital. The Confederate flag is not a symbol of southern heritage as some claim but represents an ugly yoke in our history when half of our nation fought for the right to enslave 15 % of the American population—brave here against their will—to create wealth for a very few.

The Confederate States of America (CSA) conveniently camouflaged their sick aspirations in the battle cries of "state's rights." The 1861 version of state's rights gave legitimacy to an institution that allowed one race power and dominion over another. The power to sell, trade, whip, beat, and rape other human beings was a gross contradiction of the almighty document, signed into law a century earlier, which promised all men equal status in the new world. For the Confederate flag to fly over any state capital in America today is nothing less than revolting.

Southerners often cry that their heritage has been taken away by revisionist liberals. In reality, it is revisionism that honors a dishonorable cause in the first place. Southerners keep the reality of slavery at great distance from the flag they worship, living in denial of any culpability the Confederacy had in maintaining the institution of slavery. The south's heritage was in fact taken away at the surrender at Appomattox. I've never read of a conquered army that was allowed to raise its flag, a ritual normally reserved to the victors. It is inconprehensibly that taxpayers, especially black taxpayers, should have their tax dollars spent to preserve Confederate monuments

around the country. Battlefield monuments have their place if commemorating the Union victory; but no American should tolerate the use of tax dollars to preserve, for example, the Confederate monument on Baltimore's Museum Drive, a cruel irony for a city that is almost 70 % black.

Do you think modern Germany would ask any surviving relatives of Anne Frank to publicly fund the upkeep of a memorial to the German Luftwaffe of 1939? I don't think so. Any flag that flies over the state capital in Charleston is paid for by the taxpayers of South Carolina and should represent the ideals of all South Carolinians.

In America, we are free to express our views and to worship symbols that may be offensive and disgusting to others. We are expected to tolerate these offensive ideas because the Constitution mandates this right to every man and woman. However, our tax money should not be used to preserve a symbol that at one time threatened to divide the country and enslave a large portion of the American population.

Today, many hate groups use the Confederate flag to glorify a bygone era of hatred, oppression, and cruelty. Many of these hate groups fly the swastika and the Confederate flag side by side in order to affirm their hatred. If southerners want to preserve the Confederate flag, they should limit their celebrations to backyard barbecues and remove their flag from the capital roof in Charleston. It's time for the losers to lower their flag for good.

This column has been copyrighted by Dani Dennis. The viewpoints expressed in this column are those of the author.

E-mail Made Easy

Trouble using UB e-mail? Forward it!

At least half of UB students may be missing out on important announcements and helpful information because they do not use—or don't have—a UB e-mail account. Many students find the current DOS-based application unfamiliar and confusing. It's easy to forward UB e-mail to your home or office e-mail address. Here's how:

- 1) Log on to your UB mailbox.
 - 2) At the dollar sign prompt (\$), type EMAIL.
 - 3) Then type SET FORWARD "MX%" [your preferred e-mail address]""
- (That's two double quotation marks after %, three double quotation marks after your preferred e-mail address. For example, type: SET FORWARD "MX%"jmitrib@aol.com"")
- 4) Verify your settings by typing at the EMAIL prompt: SHOW FORWARD

To stop forwarding your e-mail:

- 1) Logon on to your UB mailbox.
- 2) At the dollar sign prompt (\$).
- 3) Type SET NOFORWARD.

For help with e-mail or other computer-related problems, call the Computer Service Desk at (410) 837-6262.

yourself at UB." Using a buddy system, student peers connect new UB students to other students, organizations, faculty, and staff who can help them.

Peer Advisors offer assistance on everything from navigating campus and the Baltimore area to saving money on books and housing, meeting financial aid deadlines, and staying safe in an urban setting. And they provide much-needed moral support during stressful times.

Dennis Pelletier, vice president for student affairs, proposed the program in the 1980s. Today, Beth Mizell, director of the Academic Advising Center, chairs the Peer Network Program with committee members from various university offices and schools. They recruit new Peer Advisors and match them with students who need a little extra assistance in adjusting to UB student life. Says Mizell, "UB is unique in that our

Now Hear This: Music Reviews

by Brian Ellner

Aphex Twin, *Windowlicker*

Richard James (the man for whom Aphex Twin, AFX, Caustic Window, and Polygon Window are all pseudonyms) has been putting out some of the most completely unpredictable and wholly original recordings of the 1990s. Styles have included quiet ambient music, brutal industrial clanging, synthetic dance music, and everything in between. James is clearly a man of extremes.

Containing three audio tracks and a full-length computer video, *Windowlicker* does not disappoint as yet another intriguing Aphex Twin CD. The fun begins with the front cover—a picture of Richard James' face attached to a busty Baywatch-type woman's body—keeps right on going from there.

The title track boasts some extremely intricate drum machine programming, gospel style vocals, and a nice fuzzed out guitar riff toward the end that combine into a fairly accessible, dance oriented song. But before you start thinking that you're witnessing a new Aphex-Twin-Goes-Disco phase, remember this is still Richard James we're talking about here. So don't be surprised when all the bizarre sound effects start flying into the mix like disembodied space aliens being abandoned into exile. After all, he is the guy who not only created "Ventolin," one of the most unpleasant odors to asthma inhalers ever to grace a compact disc's pits and grooves, but made a hour long suite out of it.

Harsh, jarring, and disorienting, the second track is James doing what he does best—making electronic metal machine music for the Prozac and beer generation. Check out the way he proves the method to his madness by meticulously dropping in white noise in all the most unpredictable places and by turning drumbats into elastic, yet perfectly syncopated, strips of metallic sound. It's all so precise that you know it isn't an accident. Throwing us another curve, the bells, light percussion, and music box qualities of "Nannan" make it seem like it could almost find (hey word almost) a perfectly natural home as a bedtime song for a child's nursery. Figure that one out.

The computer video ends the show with Richard James dressed in all white, acting like a pimp, and having a multiple party make-out session in the back of an enormous limo. He also intermittently appears in a freakish, snuggle-toothed mask and dances around like Michael Jackson under a bunch of palm trees.

This man is clearly sick, dangerous, and possibly out of his mind. But if that's what it takes for him to keep making fascinating music like this, then long live psychonaut!

Rating: 8

Bolt Upright, *Red Carpet Syndrome*

For all you cooking bikers, here's the recipe for Bolt Upright's 3 cups Rage Against the Machine, 2 cups 3 1/4 cup Soundgarden, and 1/4 cup "Sabotage"-style Beastie Boys. Add it all up and what do you get? Alternative heavy metal white boy rap cockies. (Musical genres are getting so specific these days, aren't they?)

It isn't a half-bad combination so much as it's a derivative one. There is also a general lack of stylistic variation from song to song, which makes the album seem more than a little one-dimensional. It doesn't help matters either that whatever energy the album has in the beginning starts winding down by the halfway point. By the end, the stillborn tempo, hard guitars, and tough boy rapping seem to be going absolutely nowhere and become nothing short of irritating.

If this had been boiled down to six songs, it would have made an excellent EP, but as an album it's simply too much of the same thing. Still, if funk's adrenalizing music is your bag, this just may be the album for you.

Rating: 4

The N.W.A. *Legacy, Volume 1, 1988-1998* and *Wu-Chronicles*

Two of the most unimpressive and unpleasant listening experiences you're likely to find this year (or any other year for that matter) are right here in these two CDs. What's really scary is that these are supposed to be the greatest hits albums, begging the question that if this material is the cream of the crop, what the hell does the other stuff sound like?

The lyrics on these CDs generally fall into four categories: 1) pimpin'/bitch songs, 2) guns/violence songs, 3) look-how-big-mimee-i-sung, and 4) half-assed, recycled liberation/revolution songs. The deliberately mispelled song titles ("Gonz 'N Ozer [Is Dis Wit Me]" and "The Gangsta, The Killz, And The Dope Dealer" to name two examples) seem more a cheap contrivance than a freshish, snuggle-toothed mask and dances around like Michael Jackson under a bunch of palm trees.

is no less offensive simply because it's used by African-Americans.

As far as the music goes, the beats are static, unimaginative, and much less interesting than the complex rhythms of electronic artists like Phoxek or Plug. And with rap, the beats are really all there is aside from the unintelligible, annoying voices and the occasional scratch or sample. Despite all these shortcomings, however, both of these groups have been immensely popular for years now so somebody's clearly buying this stuff.

Most people's minds are probably already made up about gangster style rap before even hearing these CDs. So if you're already one of the converted, *The N.W.A. Legacy* and *Wu-Chronicles* are probably sitting on your shelf. For the rest of us, these are just two more albums to ignore.

Rating: 2

Reich Remixed

As one of the most respected American composers of modern art/classical music, Steve Reich has created a large body of work from the late 1960s to the present. Highlights include *The Desert Music*, *Tehillim*, and *Six Marimbas*. So as first, the concept for *Reich Remixed*—having today's electronic artists remix and reproduce Reich's works—seems totally ludicrous at best. But what becomes apparent fairly quickly is that Reich's often minimalist, shifting rhythms are actually prime fodder for the remix treatment.

Early tape experiments ("Come Out") are here right alongside Reich's live musician compositions ("Drumming," "Piano Phase," "Music for 18 Musicians"). By keeping the essence of Reich's music intact and adding a new electronic element, *Reich Remixed* simply builds one more tier to Reich's complex, layered compositions. The "Megamix" by Tranquility Bass even manages to seamlessly combine compositions from various phases of Reich's career into one grand opus.

For people accustomed to the original versions of Reich's work, *Reich Remixed* will seem like a strange—but ultimately rewarding—addition to the Reich canon. For the uninitiated, this CD serves as an excellent introduction for pop music listeners to ease their way into Reich's hypnotic, mesmerizing music.

Rating: 7

Ask The Oracle: October Horoscopes

by Brian Ellner

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) You shouldn't need me to tell you that you simply must stop procrastinating on that VERY BIG ISSUE that's been lurking around in the back of your mind for so long. If there's someone you've avoided saying to someone, now's the time to say it. That unpleasant task is not going to get up and fix itself you know—you're just going to have to knuckle down and get it over with. It's time to take the initiative, Capricorn, and just do what you have to do. Believe me, you'll be glad you did when it's over—the sense of relief will be the best vacation you've had in years. And remember, dealing with unpleasant things is just like letting a shot: it stings for a second, but then it's over.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18) I just finished my divining session last night for your sign, Aquarius, and the massive energy wave that flowed into my mind carried me off to that magical realm of which few of us dare to dream. Wonderful things can happen for you this month, Aquarius, but there is a catch—they will not simply fall out of the sky in a nice, neat little package. You'll have to go out and get them. A little effort now could produce great rewards later.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20) I hate to rain on your parade, Pisces, but this month is going to test your stamina. You must, I repeat must, exercise great patience and take extreme care not to say things that you will regret later. If your boss pulls a fast one on you, tell yourself he's only having a bad day instead of getting angry and making that passive-aggressive remark. When that friend or loved one identifies one of your faults with a little too much relish, be the better person and don't strike back. I know it's hard to bite your tongue sometimes, but do your best, Pisces. Trust me, the trouble will be worth it because the karmic rewards for this month's good behavior will come back to you threefold in the future.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19) You wanna mess with me? Well, do you? Really, Aries, your belligerence can be unbearable sometimes. Sooner or later you're going to have to realize that if you drive away those closest to you, you'll end up alone one of these days and even the stars won't be able to save you then. You need to relax and get all of that bad stuff out of your system. If you have any vacation time, this could be the time to take it. If not, take three deep breaths, think of the ocean, and realize that, compared to its vastness,

whatever's eating at you is insignificant. Repeat after me: Om.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20) The material world is melting away for you, Taurus, as your spiritual side begins to awaken. It's the metaphysical that concerns you now. Don't be alarmed, you're just starting to notice that there's more out there than money and malls—a whole world full of possibilities you hadn't seen before. So let other people worry about winning the rat race. All the shopping in the world won't fill the empty voids they call their souls. Let everybody else worry whether the glass is half full or half empty. You know the real truth now; there's no glass there at all.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) The twins are squabbling again, Gemini, and that means you're distracted. What you want is right there in front of you but it can't come into clear focus until you resolve your inner conflicts. Your stubborn refusal to swallow your pride isn't helping either by the way. Keeping up appearances for other people is one thing, but lying to yourself is just a pointless waste of time. The key to fulfillment may not be as hidden as you think, but you must search with the right spirit if you expect to find it. The road to inner peace this month, Gemini, is called humility.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22) Cancer, Cancer, Cancer! What am I going to do with you, Cancer? Why do you insist on taking three steps backward for every step forward? Exercise those ghosts once and for all—that fear-of-success complex just has to go. And whatever you do, don't let other people's opinions get in your way. Opinions are a dime a dozen but the person who cares what everybody else thinks anyway? They're just jealousy of your talents and afraid you're going to make them look bad. Just do what you do best, Cancer, and you'll soon be leaving them all in the dust.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22) You surprise me sometimes, Leo. The decisions you made last month were bold and confident. Good show! Just make sure you don't let up this month and start resting on your laurels. You got the ball rolling, now keep it rolling. It's all about momentum. There will be plenty of time for fun and relaxation later on but for now, continue what you started and don't look back. The finish line will soon be in sight.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) Stop watching and get in there, Virgo. You deserve more credit than you give yourself. Your problem is that you're wasting your time on all the wrong things. Picking daisies is fine but it will only get you so far in life. Let your talents work for you instead of keeping you in the basement. Nobody will know what you have to offer if you don't let them see what you can do. If you want to join the circus, you've got to show 'em your tricks.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 23) I am very pleased to report to you, Libra, that you will have nine great days, fourteen good days, five mediocre days, and only three bad days this month. And be glad, too, because that 3:1 great days vs. bad days ratio is the best one going for any of the signs this month. You should be feeling lucky. Take special advantage of the nine great days (you'll know which ones they are) for tackling your most difficult projects. Even the toughest things are easy when you're sitting on top of the world.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) You've been in a rut, Scorpio, and it's time to make a change either by finding a new job, getting out of that destructive relationship, or moving to a new place. I took the liberty of drawing a tarot card on your behalf and The Tower came up. A bolt of lightning is striking the tower as people are leaping from the windows to avoid being burned to death in the flames. What does this mean? The Tower is your prison of doubt, the lightning is the symbol of outside forces making decisions for you, and the flames represent the disaster that can result from inaction. You can't keep hiding behind those walls of indecision much longer, Scorpio, you've procrastinated long enough. If you can't decide what to do for yourself, force beyond your control will do it for you whether you like it or not.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) This is a time to let your mind wander and dream, Sagittarius. Try not to encumber yourself with too much reason and logic right now. Write your dreams down if you can but don't analyze them until next month. This is your chance to uncover the raw material of your psyche by letting your imagination roll without interference. You'll have plenty of time to figure out what it all means later. And like I told Leo, it's all about momentum, and once this phase is over it won't be back for a while. So make the most of it while it lasts. Now sit back and row your boat, Sagittarius: life is but a dream.

The Reel World: Movie Reviews

By Jessica Pure

It was one creepy summer. It started out funny. Somewhere along the line, though, the movies took a turn into the Twilight Zone.

I began the summer movie smorgasbord with *Trekks*, a documentary about Star Trek fans. Even though it wasn't really meant to be a comedy (or so the filmmakers claimed), I laughed myself sick. How could I not? It was a sideshow of media obsessives. There was the kid "genius" throwing out 50-cent words and temper tantrums, the female devotee of Data, who called herself a "Spinerfem," and the guy who built a motorized version of Captain Pike's wheelchair and drove it to Radio Shack! Everyone has been this obsessed with something at one time or another—whether it was a TV show, a rock group, a hobby, or a boyfriend/girlfriend—most of most of us went when we were 15. Funny, yes, but a valuable cautionary tale as well, a lack of perspective leaves you open to indie filmmakers.

Next, I ran out and saw *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*. And I liked it. Of course, it was funnier if you saw the first one. Yes, the poop jokes were way too much. And no, I didn't believe that anyone could make Elizabeth Hurley look like a decent actress, but Heather Graham pointed out the difference between adding nothing (Ms. Hurley) and actively detracting (Ms. Graham). Aside from this, I liked it fine.

It was then that things got scary. It started like the best scary stories—with a little whisper. *The Blair Witch Project* crept into my summer subby. On the way out of *Austin Powers*, I passed the posters. In the

middle of the larger-than-life explosions and

Even though
[*Trekks*]
really meant to be a
comedy...I laughed
myself sick.

the comedy teasers, there was a gray poster with an odd little stick figure. The small black letters under it said...well, you've all seen and heard the ad copy a hundred times already. When I tried to talk my friends into going, though, we hit a snag. Since no one else had heard of it yet, it took a twenty-minute argument to convince my friends that we were going to have to see *The Bel Air Witch*. We hit opening night at the Charles (the line itself was pretty scary, but we survived.) The thing you have to understand about *The Blair Witch Project* is that you have to be involved. You have to want to be scared. The fright factor is the same as the one that comes with listening to horror stories around a campfire, stories that happened about five miles down the road. It's not so much listening to the story that freaks you out—it's that long, quiet walk to the bathroom three hours later. Alone. In the dark. I also like the fact that the book, the website, and the comic are additional pieces to the puzzle, rather than rehashes. They're worth a look.

I tried to lighten things up by seeing *South Park: Bigger, Longer and Uncut*, but that was just not possible—I was so primed by the spooky mood from *Blair Witch* that the "Kenny in hell" sequence scared the (bleep) out of me. Speaking of (bleep), there's a (bleep) of a lot of foul language in *South Park*, which is exactly the (bleeping) point...I bet Satan really does sound like Michael Bolton.

really funny, as were the parodies of the big, new Disney spectacles. I bet Satan really does sound like Michael Bolton. I laughed my (bleeping) (bleep) off.

So between *South Park* and *Blair Witch*, I was feeling pretty anti-Hollywood. After *Blair Witch* proved you didn't need a big movie studio to be spellbinding and *South Park* skewered the big summer movie pretense, I was not in the mood for standard, big-name Hollywood fare. And what did I get? I got blindsided by *The Sixth Sense*. What can I tell you that won't ruin the film? Absolutely nothing. I can say that *Sixth Sense* is the best possible film to round out the summer wish, especially since it's coming to the Senator, the best possible place in Baltimore to get wrapped up in a movie. It's a slow scare, it's the hairs on the back of your neck standing up, it's the tense second after you see the movement out of the corner of your eye. Go see it. Go, and if you want to talk to me about it later, I will be happy to

What can I tell you
that won't ruin [*The Sixth Sense*]? Absolutely nothing....I will say that I can almost forgive Bruce Willis for *Hudson Hawk* now.

discuss it. Any further discussion here may let the cat scare out of the bag. Although I will say that I can almost forgive Bruce Willis for *Hudson Hawk* now.

All in all, I was more than satisfied with my movie going summer, partially because I avoided *The Haunting*, but mostly because there were some mighty fine (and fun) films out there. I think I'm ready to face the onslaught of Thanksgiving turkeys and Christmas stinkers in the hopes that there'll be a little more of the magic mill to come.

Textbooks

[From Textbook, Page Nine]

the in-person exchange a bigger event and a continuous student project, like the block party," he says. The exchange bulletin board is available for year-round book posting in the Business Center's third floor lounge. And Student Senate president Wayne St. George Nelson would like a renovation is finished. Business-related books are always available on the GBA website at www.uhsl.edu/gba. However, Volosyn acknowledges that the Student Book Exchange may not be the best option for harried students who value time over money. "They must barter by phone or e-mail and many students aren't comfortable doing that," he says.

There is some relief in sight. Increased market competition has resulted in a rare guarantee. This semester, some publishers offer a 50% buy-back on selected texts, regardless of whether the course is offered next semester. The UB bookstore honors the guarantee on specially marked books.

What can instructors do to help? Paddy encourages faculty members to choose their book selections carefully. "Make sure you use the books that you ask students to buy. Pick a book that you will stick with for two or three years." And Jones sends a clear message to all instructors: "Please turn your book orders in on time. It is to the student's advantage." Book broker Will Murray thinks the time has come for all textbooks to be available on CD, however, he says, "Publishers are threatened to hell by new technology. In the meantime, students should put pressure on their instructors to act in their best interest. Your student bookstore is not the bad guy here—it's the publishers."

There are no easy answers, but students do have alternatives: check GBA web site, sell your books back early, and insist that instructors order on time and with students' wallets in mind.

Events Listing

September 24-25

"People and Places in Time: Baltimore's Changing Landscape."
Contact: Tom Hollowak in UB Archives at (410) 837-4268 or e-mail thollowak@ubmail.uhsl.edu

September 27 and 28, 2:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily
Graduate and Professional School Law Fair at The George Washington University in Washington, DC.
Contact: Colleen Murphy in the Career Center at (410) 837-5449

September 30 at 8:00 p.m.
Segment of "Maryland State of Mind" on Maryland Public Television features law school professors and students.
Contact: UB School of Law at (410) 837-4458

October 14, 12, 14, 16, 20, 2000 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Block Party hosted by the Student Senate.
Contact: Susan Luchey in CSI at (410) 837-5417

October 22-29
Academic Center Window Painting Contest sponsored by CSI.
Contact: Susan Luchey in CSI at (410) 837-5417

October 28
Trick or Treating for Head Start and Halloween decorating.
Contact: Susan Luchey in CSI at (410) 837-5417

October 29, 8:00 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Halloween Masquerade Ball sponsored by the Student Events Board.
Contact: Susan Luchey in CSI at (410) 837-5417

November 5 and 6
"Re-Inventing Media and Publishing," hosted by the School of Communications Design.
Contact: Jaye Crooks at (410) 837-6022, e-mail at jcrooks@ubmail.uhsl.edu or go to <http://www.uhsl.edu/millennium>

For student government meeting dates and times, contact Susan Luchey in CSI at (410) 837-5417.

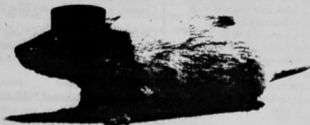
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