Renovation and Retention
by Asia Tillman

A new quad, a new bookstore, new computer labs—why wouldn’t any student want to rush to a campus sprouting new growth?

Of students surveyed, many agreed additions create a social environment that can attract a bigger enrollment.

But some think it might take more to sustain Coppin’s forward momentum.

Freshmen Bernard Reeves, freshmen class president, said, “The improvements ... are making our school look more presentable.”

Reeves said the new quad and Austin Grill allow students to have more places “to chat with peers and eat great food at the same time.”

Sophomore Vanessa Banks, a recent transfer from Seton Hall University in New Jersey, agreed.

She said while people think of West Baltimore as “a rough neighborhood ... the new additions could help to bring new students to Coppin.”

Senior Nicole Bond said low tuition is another perk.

She added that new dorms would attract future enrollment.

One junior said physical additions attract new students but added, “My concern is: Will Coppin be able to retain the population?” ■

Live and Let Live
by Charm Robinson, Shante Thomas, Sunil Whittle

The bid for same-sex marriage has suffered a major delay in the Maryland House of Delegates.

Despite this setback, Coppin students voice their support for the bill.

“I feel that gay marriage should be legalized because everyone deserves their rights,” said Freshman Frederick Forby.

Valisha Sheppard, also a freshman, agreed, saying, “Everyone should have the right to marry whomever.”

Junior Shane Weaver said they should legalize gay marriage because she didn’t think it was right to “capitalize on someone’s happiness.”

A March 2011 article in the Sun reports that the House of Delegates moved the bill backward—returning it to the committee that nearly killed it.

State House Speaker Michael E. Busch said his chamber wouldn’t see the issue on the floor again this year, even though the Senate passed it last month by a vote of 25 to 21.

For Senior Kevin Jeter, the delay is welcome. “I don’t think it should be legalized because it is unethical,” Jeter said.

The pending vote would position Maryland to join five other states—Connecticut, Iowa, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts—and the District of Columbia, where same-sex marriage has been legalized.

By moving the bill back, Maryland delegates avoided putting on record their position on the issue.

Ticket Tally!
By Shanté Thomas

Getting a stolen parking ticket is easy but catching ticket thieves is hard.

“Unfortunately things like this do happen and there is really nothing we can do about it,” says a spokesperson for Coppin’s Parking Authority.

Stealing tickets is a way some students avoid a $75 ticket by taking a ticket off a car that has already been ticketed. Because the parking authority will not issue another on the same day, the driver can’t get another ticket.

On average the authority writes about 50-75 tickets a week; but since the beginning of the semester, the number of tickets has decreased. (cont. pg. 2)
No doubt technology makes it easier for students to cheat and get away with it. “All you have to do is ask a classmate to shoot you an email ... and you can pull it up on your phone in no time,” said Junior Paige Arnold.

According to Carol Wood of Total Learning Concepts, there are many types of cheating. Most common are copying homework or getting other students to do assignments. “I am always approached and asked to do a paper or even take an online test for someone,” Freshman Carmen Frazier said.

Faculty say they’re doing what they can to limit cheating but “cheating is contagious, especially when you see that it has been working for a fellow classmate,” one professor said.

Some professors feel that cheating is a learned behavior and students do it simply because their peers are doing it too. Other students feel there is no need to cheat because the work that professors assign isn’t all that hard for them to accomplish.

Freshman Lakeisha Hall said when she realized she had to apply herself, “the easier the work became.”

“Anyone who cheats at Coppin really needs to re-think their college career,” said Junior John Clairmont.

“There is nothing challenging about the work here or at any other university,” Clairmont said.

20 percent of Americans are chronic procrastinators.

Bernard said when she procrastinates, she gets better grades than if she were to do the assignments on time. According to Bernard, the work that she’s given by professors isn’t “challenging,” so she would do the assignments the day before or the day of class.

Her method: “I would study or research my assignment as soon as it was given,” she said. “Then on the day before class I would just put my research together.”

College students who procrastinate are also likely to have unhealthy sleep, diet, and exercise patterns, according to one of several studies.

Bernard said that she wouldn’t advise procrastinating to everyone because not everyone can manage to have a 3.0 overall GPA like she has. “I never fold under pressure,” she said.

Students say all you have to do to cheat is ask.

Kim Bradley, a senior, uses the Quiet Lounge for a quick study session.

Guerline Dorcellus, a senior, grabs a soda and a study opportunity in the Austin Grill

Freshman Khaleela Howell and Sophomore Nate Whitt take a study break in front of the Parlett Moore Library.

Unpaid tickets go to the MVA, which can lead to someone’s registration being suspended, and for Senior Kelly Charles that’s “a hassle of its own. “Who wants to deal with them and Coppin at the same time,” says Charles.

Senior Kenyetta Stringfellow says Coppin is slow at getting problems resolved. “Leave it up to them and nothing would get fixed,” Stringfellow says.

“Please do not wait until the last minute to get this assignment done,” the professor said.

Everyone in the class seemed to be listening but Latifah Bernard. A master of procrastination, Bernard said she never does an assignment after class, a couple of days after class, or even a week after class.

According to the American Psychological Association, 20 percent of Americans are chronic procrastinators.

“I never fold under pressure,” she said.

While procrastination is the enemy of personal success in school, Bernard is one of those students who can make procrastination work. “I don’t know how I do it,” she said. “My schedule is very demanding.”
‘Juicing’ — not worth the risks
by Charma Robinson

Some athletes try to enhance their performance the right way: training hard, spending extra hours critiquing themselves on their particular sport, eating properly, and drinking protein shakes.

However, there are other athletes that take the back door when it comes to getting better in their sport.

Coppin players say the benefits of steroids are not worth the risks, both professionally and personally.

“I have never used steroids and I don’t need to,” Senior Craig Richmond said.

Richmond said players who use steroids “should never be allowed to play sports again, whether it is college level or pros.”

Another Coppin player also criticized the use of steroids.

“I have never been tested for steroids,” he said. “And neither have any of my teammates.”

But athletes should be aware of the consequences of steroid use.

He found with steroids in their systems, their scholarships can be taken and the NCAA can ban them from playing.

The University could also be faced with fines.

Not only are there academic consequences, but also physical consequences.

Although anabolic steroids are derived from the male sex hormone, men who take steroids may feel a feminization effect.

That includes low sperm count, impotence, development of breasts, difficulty or pain during urination and shrinking of the testicles.

Serious effects include liver damage, premature heart attacks and strokes, clotting disorders and weakening of the tendons.

“I have a bright future ahead of me,” Coppin’s Chris Harper said.

“Baseball is my life and I love myself and this sport too much to slip up.”

Baby on Board
by Davon Muhammad

She’s young, educated, but Gloria Badmos no longer lives for herself.

Badmos, 20, a junior at Coppin with a nursing major, said she had no idea her life would turn out the way it has.

“I didn’t plan on getting pregnant,” Badmos said.

Teen mothers account for 11 percent of all births in the United States, according to the National Centers for Disease Control.

They also report that one-third of girls get pregnant before the age of 20.

It all started after her 18th birthday, when Badmos found out that she was pregnant.

Patrice Newman, one of Badmos’ suitemates at Coppin, said she tried to help.

“I didn’t want her to feel alone,” Newman said.

But Badmos re-enrolled. She said she came up with a schedule which made it possible for her to attend class and still care for her son.

Her friends take turns babysitting.

Badmos said she’s made it her goal to set an example for her son.

“I want him to know mistakes are a part of life, but you can still accomplish your goals even with having some setbacks,” she said.

Badmos said getting pregnant turned her life around, but now she couldn’t picture life any other way.

She said she plans on graduating on schedule in spring of 2012.

“I almost lost my life,” White said.

“I almost lost my life,” White said.

Woman in the mirror
by Shakia Love

Looking at her reflection in the mirror Chyna White did not recognize the face she saw.

Her left eye was half shut and the right blackened. Her cheeks and face were swollen and her mouth bled.

This was not the face of White, the 20-year-old single mother and college student, but the face of a battered woman.

“I don’t even know how it got to that point where it turned violent,” White said.

“We had previous altercations but not to the point of me getting beat up.”

White said what started off as a simple argument with her then-boyfriend turned sour on an early summer morning.

“One thing lead to another,” she said. “And he started to beat me.”

According to the annual report from the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009, 53 individuals died from domestic violence in Maryland.

White’s life could have ended that summer morning.

“If he had held on a little longer, I would have probably died because I could feel the breath leaving from my body,” White said.

White urged all women who are in situations of domestic violence to “get help immediately.”

White said she is now focusing on her family, education, and career and is an advocate at her church, helping to mentor other young women facing hardships, including getting out of an abusive situation.

She said she still has nightmares about the incident but remains positive and continues to keep her faith strong.

“I almost lost my life,” White said. “I will never let another man hurt me in that way ever again.”
Too Much Negativity
By Charma Robinson

There are some students who ride the college bandwagon until the wheels fall off.
And then there are the students at Coppin State University.
“Ain’t [#!]hit here to do!”
“Coppin is whack.” “Morgan is better.”
They’re always complaining about how boring it is on campus
and how we need something to do.
But there are so many activities and events on this campus to participate in:
The Spring Fair. The Student Senate Debate.
The Black-Out to Protest Domestic Violence. The Greek Organization Day.
Why is it that when opportunities arise, no one can be found
or there are only a handful of people at the function?
Too much negativity overshadows the positive things happening on campus.

Letters to the editors are welcome. Please forward your comments or queries to khellen@coppin.edu

Silhouettes and Tableaus:
A Review of God’s Trombones by Sunil Whittle

Heart-rending is the word that comes to mind to describe “God’s Trombone” as produced by the Coppin Repertory Theatre.
Adapted by D. Wambui Richardson, this production marks the end of this season for the ensemble and was an event that should not have been missed.
The cast moved seamlessly through this emotionally challenging work; from agonizing storylines into some of today’s most popular gospel songs.
Mr. Richardson’s direction offered the audience silhouettes and dramatic tableaus enhanced by the lighting design, while the ensemble showcased some stand-outs.
The tenderness alone with which Nathan Couser portrayed God was enough to move some to tears.

Christian Harris’ commitment to her character “the User”, complete with itching and constant fidgeting, even while reaching for the memory of her dead daughter prompted compliments from the audience in the brief post-show Q&A.
The definite break-out star of the show was Kareem Carpenter whose attention to the realistic portrayal of his character could not be denied.
Carpenter led the way through scripture and sermon with the dramatic lift of a veteran African American preacher.
The merits of this production far outshine any shortcomings.
Kudos to the cast and crew of “God’s Trombones”.

“ I think it could be better.”
Tiffani Whaley
Sophomore

“It depends on the situation... the instructor should handle each situation according to its depth.”
Warren Johnson
Senior

“This is my first semester so I don’t know about those problems.”
Eddie Betit
Junior

“The severity of the problem determines how they solve the problem. It also depends on if the person stays on [top of] the situation.”
Barsheid Bowman
Senior

Managing Editor
Sunil Whittle

Editorial
Charma Robinson
Shanté Thomas
Sunil Whittle

Reporters
Shakia Love
Davon Muhammad
Charma Robinson
Shanté Thomas
Asia Tillman
Sunil Whittle

Layout & Design
Charma Robinson
Shanté Thomas
Sunil Whittle

Photographers
Charma Robinson
Shanté Thomas
Michelle Wallace

Faculty Advisor
Dr. Kathleen Hellen