



## LOFTY GOALS

With a loaded cast of returnees, men's soccer looks to better last season's record  
SPORTS | PAGE 1B

## INTERNET SAVED THE TV STAR

New and old television shows alike get airtime online as the mediums merge  
DIVERSIONS | PAGE 1C



# THE DIAMONDBACK

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

99<sup>TH</sup> YEAR | ISSUE NO. 1

## Victim aid office rolled into univ. budget

### Two Health Center offices merge after uncertain funding

BY DIANA ELBASHA  
Staff writer

The University Health Center reorganized its resources to create the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Program Advocate Office after funding problems threatened to close the Office of the Victim Advocate last year.

Health center administrators say the restructured program will not reduce the counseling and education services previously provided and may even enhance the center's ability to help students. While past programs relied on part-time employees and graduate students, SARPP will now be headed by a full-time employee.

OVA, which assists victims of sexual assault and other violent crimes by running a 24-hour on-call hotline and more, scrambled to find additional funding last fall, as the program's grant was set to expire. The health

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## Price floor may come with legal concerns

### Minimum drink cost at downtown bars modeled after faulty precedent

BY BRADY HOLT  
Senior staff writer

College Park bar owners and local lawmakers agreed to ban very low liquor prices without looking into the legality of their agreement, officials are now saying.

The agreement, which was reached at a meeting organized by College Park Public Services Director Bob Ryan, sets a \$1 minimum price for alcoholic drinks. Ryan said the bar owners voluntarily agreed to the arrangement.

"It's a voluntary agreement; it's not something the city can enforce," Ryan said. "Only their word" binds the bar owners to the agreement.

"They gave their word that, starting August 1, they would charge at least \$1 for

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## Housing waitlist drops below 100

### Unexpected number of on-campus beds open up after housing crunch

BY DERBY COX  
Staff writer

The school year will begin with fewer than 100 students on the on-campus housing waitlist, a substantial decrease from last year's

opening-day tally of 1,565, officials from the Department of Resident Life said.

The short list comes after the department told most rising juniors and all rising seniors that their chances of being allowed to

remain in on-campus housing were slim, and they ought to consider other options. As those students fled, freshmen interest in on-campus housing waned, creating more space than was anticipated.

Resident Life also converted 161 of 193 forced triples back into doubles, eliminated all of the converted quad-lounges in the North Campus dorms and allowed about

Please See HOUSING, Page 8A

ELECTION 2008

## THE ISSUES OF OUR AGE

For students nearing adulthood, campaign promises have impact

*[Editor's note: This is the first story in a biweekly series highlighting the impact of the presidential election on college students.]*

BY BEN PENN  
Senior staff writer

With a single text message and e-mail alert last week, Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama not only announced his running mate selection but also served notice that younger voters will be playing a historically unprecedented role in the presidential race this fall.

But while the extent of college students' excitement for the Nov. 4 election has been well documented, the young demographic's breadth of knowledge on certain key issues, such as the economy and health care, remains uncertain.

In the next two months, a handful of student groups at the university will take aggressive measures to increase

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OBAMA
McCAIN

democrat
election

IRAQ
INSURANCE

HEALTH
REPUBLICAN

ECONOMY

### GREAT SCOTT!



Sophomore running back Da'Rel Scott ran all over Delaware, gaining 197 yards on the ground. He was one of the few bright spots in the Terps' 14-7 victory. ADAM FRIED/THE DIAMONDBACK SPORTS | PAGE 1B

## Faculty contracts cause semester to start later

BY MARISSA LANG  
Staff writer

Students were able to hold onto summer a bit longer this year because of a complicated scheduling procedure that caused classes to start after Labor Day, officials said.

Although classes have not begun after Labor Day weekend since 2003, administrators say this is not an unusual occurrence and will not affect the semester as a whole.

"There have been several years when we start after Labor Day," Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs Phyllis Peres said. "Doing the calendar is very complex;

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DOTS cuts Terp Taxi to support the new Silver Line and to extend weekend evening hours | PAGE 3A

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The university community joins national debate over the drinking age | PAGE 12A

#### RAMADAN

Islam's month of fasting begins today as students start the fall semester | PAGE 13A



TOMORROW'S WEATHER:



Sunny/80s

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