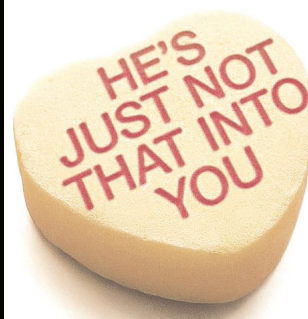




## TERPS ON THE DEFENSE

Men's basketball knows defense is key entering Georgia Tech rematch  
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# THE DIAMONDBACK

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2009

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

99<sup>TH</sup> YEAR | ISSUE NO. 83

## Committee chair looks to revamp curriculum

### Berlin: CORE program needs to be modernized, give students freedom



BY MARISSA LANG  
Staff writer

The head of the committee in charge of overhauling CORE said he wanted to modernize the university's general education curriculum to give students more freedom.

"Nobody likes being told what to do — this is America," said Ira Berlin, who will lead the general education committee. "There are general education curriculums around the country that have been modeled after CORE, but it's been 20 years; things change. We are a very different society and university now. We need our general education to evolve like we have."

Provost Nariman Farvardin named Berlin, a history professor, as chairman of the committee yesterday, ending a lengthy search for the position. The task force was jointly appointed by the provost and the University Senate.

"I really had to twist his arm," Farvardin said. "But we were very persistent, and it paid off."

Berlin said he only changed his mind and agreed to chair the task force after giving the offer long and serious consideration. This reluctance delayed the start of the task force, which was supposed to begin work last semester.

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ANNAPOLIS 2009

## Legislators propose law to ban guns on the campus

### College Republicans plan to protest bill in Annapolis

BY BRADY HOLT  
Senior staff writer

Two local legislators are among the sponsors of a proposed state law that would ban guns, knives and other deadly weapons from college campuses.

The Weapon-Free Higher Education Zones bill would expand on existing state laws that ban such weapons from the grounds of K-12 public schools.

Sen. Jim Rosapepe (D-Anne Arundel and Prince George's) is one of nearly 30 co-sponsors for the proposed state Senate bill, and Del. Josefine Peña-Melnyk (D-Anne Arundel and Prince George's) is one of four co-sponsors of a House version of that bill. Both legislators live in College Park.

University Police spokesman Paul Dillon said the proposed law would likely improve on-campus safety, but College Republicans president Chris Banerjee said the restrictions would prevent students from protecting themselves against armed criminals.

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## State debates same-sex benefits

### O'Malley proposal would bring domestic partner benefits to university

BY MARISSA LANG  
Staff writer

Domestic partners of gay and lesbian university employees would be entitled to health benefits under a proposal announced earlier this week by Gov. Martin

O'Malley (D).

If the plan, which is part of the governor's budget proposal, is approved by the General Assembly, Maryland would join Washington and 15 other states in offering health insurance benefits to domestic partners. By exten-

sion, university employees would be eligible for the benefits guaranteed by the policy.

University administrators emphasized that extending health benefits to same-sex domestic partners would make the state and the university more competi-

tive in attracting top-notch employees. Of the 62 schools that are in the Association of American Universities, an organization of the nation's leading research universities, this university was

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## the JUICY runs dry

### Economic downturn forces controversial gossip website to sign offline

BY DERBY COX  
Staff writer

Who is the hottest person on campus?

With the closure of JuicyCampus, a popular college gossip website, students will have to turn to other sources for answers to this and other burning questions. A blog post on the site announcing its shutdown Wednesday cited the economic downturn and declining advertising revenue. During its year and a half lifespan, the site drew ire and legal action from around the country for its anonymous, sometimes insulting, gossip.

The site, which spread to more than 500 colleges and reached more than 220,000 posts, invited students to "spill the juice about all the crazy stuff going on at your campus. It's totally anonymous — no registration, login, or e-mail verification required."

But too often, contended Student Government Association Greek Community Legislator Gabi Band, the posts took on

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ILLUSTRATION BY SAM STONE

HONORING HARPER

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Former forward Laura Harper, center, poses with the women's basketball team after having her number retired Thursday night. Harper was named Most Outstanding Player of the 2006 final four and now plays professionally. JAMES B. HALE/THE DIAMONDBACK

## Study abroad fee doesn't deter travels, students say

### Univ. charges \$400 for year, semester-long programs

BY JULIA RUSSELL  
Staff writer

The university has implemented a new fee for studying abroad, but students said it won't deter them from their travels.

Despite the fee — which is \$400 for semester-long and full-year programs and \$250 for short-term and exchange programs — the number of students going abroad continues to increase each semester, according to Michael Ulrich, the associate director of the Study Abroad Office.

The fee, which was implemented during the winter term, is charged to students who take

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TOMORROW'S WEATHER:



Sunny/50s

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