



An Ode to Bill Rice

Rumors of Bill Rice's demise were not much exaggerated. It is a fact that Washington's premier political junkie has ceased to be a member in good standing of the Blackberry Administration.

In a fit of cost cutting, the city eliminated Rice's position as the Persuasive Indirection Officer (PIO) at the Office of Property Mismanagement (OPM). In the future, reporters will have to pester Sean Madigan at the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Promoting Egregious Deals (ODMPED) for information on the fate of the Old Naval Hospital or the renovation of Eastern Market.

The relationship between journalists and government spokespeople such as Rice, oft referred to as "Flaks," resembles nothing so much as a dysfunctional marriage. A good journalist, much like the stereotypical jealous spouse, obsessively checks whether his friendly Flak is cheating on him by spinning the news or deliberately ducking until his deadline has long since passed. Simultaneously, the Flak works the press to shape the news to his masters' needs, alternatively whispering seductive hints or dispatching press releases to the farthest corners of cyberspace.

Rice was the master of his trade. Beloved by reporters for his wit and deep knowledge of the arcane intricacies of District politics, he served as a member of the Fourth Estate and as a perennial political candidate. An ever-present face at local functions, Rice was known as raconteur.

The Nose himself walks in the delicate shoeprints left by Rice's tasseled loafers during his famous dalliance with Ken Cummings at Washington City Paper.

Now that Rice has been stripped of his flack jacket, The Nose and many of his journalistic brethren will no doubt be dusting off their mourning jackets in preparation for a truly Irish wake.

Dear Readers, let your imagination take you to the now smokeless backroom of the Hawk'n'Dove. There gather the elite of Washington's local press corps to pay tribute to Bill Rice.

With his graceful baritone (Think "Oklahoma!"), Tom Sherwood takes the lead singing:

*Poor Bill is dead
Poor Bill Rice is dead
All gather 'round his coffin now and cry
He had a heart of gold
And he wasn't very bold
Oh why did such a feller have to lie?*

*Poor Bill is dead
Poor Bill Rice is dead
He's lookin' oh so peaceful and serene
(with Mark Segraves chiming in) and serene
His bike's laid out to rest
A broken Blackberry on his chest
His e-mail box has never been so clean*

Then, Mark Plotkin stands up to say,

Folks, we are gathered here to morn and groan over our brother, Bill Rice, ex-member of our vast and quickly dwindling fraternity, whose position as Flak at the Office of Property Mismanagement (OPM) was the victim of an errant Blackberry budgetary axe.

After weepin' an' wailin' from the attending reporters, Plotkin continues,

Bill was the most misunderstood Flak in the District of Columbia. Reporters claimed that no man could say so much and mean so little – especially when he called them the morning after the deadline passed. But, as much as Bill might shade the truth in the Name of a Higher Authority, there has never been a Flak that so loved The News and bicycled so many of the streets of this fair metropolis.

When asked about his termination, Rice, quite predictably, had no comment.

A Kinder, Gentler Chancellor?

Just when The Nose thought up the perfect Wizard of Oz tune to characterize the DC Public School's Michelle Rhee (Think monkeys flying in the direction of California!), the chancellor quashed an entire column by unleashing a charm offensive. How rude!

In her end-of-the-year letter to teachers, Rhee swapped her trademark broom for effusive praise. Then, like Mohammed, she trekked to the Wilson Building mending fences with Chair Vincent C. Gray and others on the council in a largely successful effort to preserve her budget from the legislative axe.

Having secured her money, Rhee quickly returned to her bad old ways. In June, according to WaPo, she retrieved her broom and swept out fully 7 percent of her instructional workforce, nearly a third of which were tenured teachers.

The return of "Red Queen" Rhee delights The Nose. After all, what's so funny about peace, love and understanding?

It Takes a Mayor to Build a Market

In 100 years, when some poor soul is tasked with writing the tortured history of the Blackberry Administration, the Eastern Market will likely warrant its own chapter. In an example of efficiency seldom witnessed in municipal governance, the city successfully rebuilt this DC institution in a record 26 months. While many were involved in this rare example of public-private partnership, none of this would have been possible but for the determined political leadership of Mayor Adrian Fenty.

Perhaps Market Lunch's famous Blue Bucks need to be renamed Blackberry Cakes in his honor.

Have a tidbit for The Nose? E-mail thenose@hillrag.com. ★



www.JTPowell.com



2416 2nd St. NE: \$372K
Renovated 2br 2 bath with off street parking



903 2nd St. NE: \$425K
3br 1 bath renovated near Union Station



1908 New Hampshire Ave. NW: \$1.1M
4br 3.5 bath w/ bsmt rental unit



1216 and 1218 H St. NE:
2 vacant 1200 sqft commercial lots zoned C2A \$190K EACH



912 Madison St. NW: \$375K
3br 1.5 bath with huge rear yard



416 L St. NE: \$507K



1430 F St. NE: \$470K



719 K St. NE: \$425K
4br+2 Bath + Garage Parking



639 Orleans Pl. NE: 2Unit
Multi-Family each unit 2br+1bath \$309K



504 M St. NE #1: \$227K
Newly renovated 1br+ 1 bath condo 3 blocks to Metro



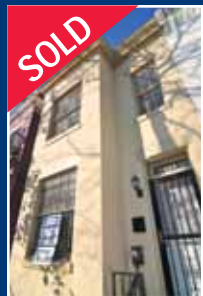
1117 6th St. NE: Multi Family!
2 Renovated Units each with 2br+1 Bath \$399K



1152 4th St. NE:
3br 2.5 bath Federal with garage parking 360K



611 L St. NE: \$670K
HUGE Renovation!
5br, 3.5 Bth+pkg w/ rental Unit



628 Morton Pl. NE: \$359K
3br+ 1 bath Victorian near Metro



634 Morton Pl. NE: 3br
2.5 Bath + Parking \$334K



1714 Independence Ave SE:
2br 2bath with off street parking \$337.5K



JT Powell | 1606 17th Street, NW | 202-465-2357



**THE SUMMER'S
ALWAYS HOT!
SO ARE THE
DEALS!**



**Call
The Smith Team!**

SHOWCASE PROPERTY

314 9th Street, NE



**BIG BEAUTIFUL BAY w/
Three Lovely Levels!
Lower Library w/ Built-In
Bookcases, 2nd Kitchen
& Bath, Seperate
Entrances, Upstairs, open
Living Room & Dining
Room w/ Warm wood
Touches, and Large Chef's
Kitchen, 2 Bright
Bedrooms, HUGE
Backyard with Capacious
Party Deck, Expansive
Play Patio, Genteel
Garden AND OSP! \$650K.**

1308 E Cap St, NE



\$785K

223 8th St, NE



\$775K

210 11th St, SE



\$700K

314 9th St, NE



\$650K

21 15th St, SE



COMING SOON!

512 D St, NE



\$665K

509 11th St, SE



\$650K

707 10th St, NE



\$599K

651 8th St, NE



\$599K

414 Kentucky, SE



\$599K

1228 D St, NE



\$584K

1631 D St, NE



\$499K

938 4th St, NE



\$479K

1120 K St, SE



\$469K

1122 K St, SE



\$449K

2002 C St, NE



\$329K

1119 W. VA, NE



\$249K

311 7th St, NE #T4



\$287K

COMMUNITY CORNER

SUMMER CHORES! SUMMER FUN!

Summer may be the Best Time to DO
Exterior Maintenance on YOUR Home!

Check for Peeling Paint.

Check Your Gutters and Your Drains.

Check Your Deck, Patio & Fence!

Check for Termites, Carpenter Ants, Pests
or All Kinds, while they are MOST Active!

Have a Yard Sale & DeClutter Your Home!

THEN Reward Yourself! Have A Picnic,

Have a Block Party, Have a Luau!

Go to a Museum, Take an Art Class,

Take a River Tour!

THE SMITH TEAM

To HILL with the Suburbs!

John Smith
202-262-6037

Aaron Smith
202-498-6794

Peter Grimm
202-270-6368

Gloria Dorsey
301-412-2371

Kristine Jones
202-415-4716

Ernest Antignani
202-543-8408



Prudential

**Carruthers
REALTORS®**



216 7th Street, SE
Washington, DC