



Free Our Capitol

BY ANONYMOUS

In the wake of September 11, 2001, Washingtonians readily accepted limitations on their freedom of movement. “Security” became the watchword as the guardians of security enclosed the city in uniformed cordons, erected thousands of bollards in front of public buildings and closed off streets with checkpoints. Now, nearly eight years later, though the new administration no longer regularly invokes the Global War on Terror (GWOT), DC remains an armed camp. Nowhere is this truer than in the streets surrounding the Capitol.

The security enclosing this iconic building extends well into the surrounding neighborhood, snarling traffic and confusing more tourists than terrorists, all in the name of safety. Heavily armed, sour-faced officers stoically and silently welcome visitors. They also shoo tourists off the grass, redirect lost truckers blocks out of their way and contribute to global warming with their ever-idling squad cars. At designated entrances, they politely search bags and seize dangerous weapons like nail clippers and hairpins. Boy scouts have been seen stripping off their medals in order to get through metal detectors.

After all, this great architectural symbol of the democratic process must be protected at all costs. And its greatest threat appears to be the American Public.

The Capitol Police consider fellow citizens such a danger that they have even banned tourists from disembarking at the entrance to the spanking new Visitors’ Center at First and East Capitol Streets. As such, we can all pay daily witness to the national travesty of senior citizens and the disabled scaling the Hill on foot, simply for a restricted tour.

To recent arrivals, this level of security must appear normative. So, The Nose would like to reminisce about some of his famous Capitol pastimes – now illegal.

Ten Things One No Longer Does at the Capitol:

1. Sledding on its hillsides;
2. Your kids playing tag in the Hall of Statues;
3. Cooling off on a hot summer evening on the western portico;
4. Running the steps as morning exercise;
5. Having a summer picnic and playing Frisbee on the lawns;
6. Peering in the windows on the Independence Avenue side;
7. Setting up a tripod to take a snap shot;
8. Kissing a date in the bushes;
9. Practicing a future Inaugural address in situ; and
10. Watching the sun set over the Mall from its steps.

It is time for Congress to have a little courage and assign GWOT to history’s dumpster. First and foremost, they should give the Capitol back to its true owners, the American People.

Have a tidbit for The Nose? Email thenose@hillrag.com. ★

6000 sq. ft. buildable lot on Capitol Hill

Rare Opportunity at a Great Location!

Two blocks from the Potomac Ave. Metro stop, the new Harris Teeter and the Anacostia Waterfront riverwalk. Near Pennsylvania Ave retail corridor, Eastern Market and Barracks Row.



PRICE REDUCED

3 buildable lots totalling 6000 sq. ft., 3 two family flats or up to 6 condos possible. Blueprints available (McAllister Architects); 10' Easement provides all lots with parking. 13,000 sf GBA.



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Inaugural Nannie Helen Burroughs Day Parade

May 2, 2009

11 AM to 1:30 PM

Entertainment for the Family & Kids
Miss Black DC Breyuna Williams
H.D. Woodson, Anacostia, Ballou & Eastern Marching Bands

Hosted by Ward 7 Councilmember Yvette Alexander and
Grand Marshall Michelle Fenty, First Lady of the District of Columbia

Parade Route: 56th St. & Nannie Helen Burroughs Ave.
to Nannie Helen Burroughs Ave. & Minnesota Ave. NE

Length: Approx. 1.5 Miles



For More Information or to Participate
Call 202.724.8068 or
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