

## Yoo Hoo Darling,

An oversized chocolate dipped fortune cookie arrived on my Brookland doorstep on Mon., Sept. 17. It was wrapped neatly in crisp newspaper and tied with a pink satin bow. In minutes, I was seated on a white leather divan trying desperately to decipher my future. The message in the cookie read: "A perfect storm awaits." Storm? It wasn't until Sunday that I realized the prediction was not weather related. Rather, the note described a confluence of fashion events of unusual magnitude.

## TUESDAY ↓

Dressing for the occasion, I wore satin high waisted trousers along with a navy and black peplum by local designer **Kabba** and trekked over to Mayor Vincent Gray's [Congressional Black Caucus] kick off reception at Indigo [formerly Home]. The word on Pennsylvania Avenue is that Mayor Gray just forwarded Fashion Commissioner nominations to the City Council for confirmation – stay tuned. After lauding **NAACP staffer Paul MacFarlane** for his ensemble: Tom Ford bow tie and a Gucci charcoal grey and white striped blazer, I tipped up to **David Rios'** Salon and Spa. **Flo McAfee**, marketer for the Nielson Group, responsible for the recent report that confirms just how much African Americans spend on goods and services, invited me to meet her stylist, David at his posh Georgetown salon opening. Not surprisingly, I literally bumped into fashion celebrity and model **Paul Wharton**.

## WEDNESDAY ↓

Famed N.Y. designer **b. michael** was in town launching his new RED collection at the downtown Macy's department store. Refusing to meet the former milliner without the proper hat, I left the CBC seminar on "Beyond the Digital Divide", coordinated by Council of Fashion Designers of America lobbyist **Alyssa Gowens** featuring **Professor Lateef Mtima** [HU School of Law faculty advisor for Fashion Law Week™] and zipped over to see **Ida Polite**, a longtime D.C. retailer and fashion maven. Always kind, she discounted a thoroughly righteous headband with crystal encrusted veil. Now appropriately attired, I was poised when greeting Mr. **b. michael** at 5:30 p.m. The **b. michael Red Collection** for Macy's modeled by **Pat Millard** among others is according to **B**, "a traditional dress collection

for modern women who prefer chic classic style." No wonder, **b. michael** decided to select D.C. as one of the five cities to launch the collection. I left around 8 p.m. with one thing on my mind: How to pay Comcast and purchase the black caplet collar dress in ponti-Jersey, which retails for \$170.

## FRIDAY ↓

My hair was swooped up in a chignon and anchored by 20 feathered hair clips courtesy of 92-year-old milliner **Vanilla Bean** [Bene Milliner]. The look, very Lanvin was quite apropos for a panel discussion with **David Rice**, Huffington Post writer and founder of the Organization of Black Designers [OBD]. OBD will host its Fall conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, Oct. 25-28.

## SATURDAY ↓

The black tie Phoenix Dinner with a keynote address by **First Lady Michelle Obama** was the highlight of my Saturday. Once I got upstairs, though, **Queen Charis**, a local talk show hostess caught my attention. Lovely in a tiered white lace gown, she was styled to perfection by Ward 8 designer, **Jarmal Harris**. Earlier in the week, he launched his line in the main hall of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. With 20 minutes to spare, I raced to the Hyatt to change and ventured over to the Park at 14<sup>th</sup> for **Roland Martin's** second annual Ascot Party. Needless to say, ascots, bow ties, and platform stilettos abounded. My pick for the best dressed gentlemen: **Roland Martin**, **Chris Tucker** and **Robert Townsend**.

## SUNDAY ↓

The French Embassy in Northwest, feted DC Fashion Week on Sunday. DC Fashion Week founder, **Ean Williams**, along with **Council member Michael Brown**, [supporter of the Creative Economy in D.C.] showed up to celebrate the finale DC Fashion Week event. Loved the D.C. based **Heydari** collection [http://heydarishop.com]: opulent belted long coats in yummy sumptuous wools, feathers and ruching. Bravo!

It's Monday, and the perfect storm created by Congressional Black Caucus, DC Fashion Week and countless cocktail parties has officially passed. Still, I am certain that the next deluge is just around the corner. **WI**

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→ Models graced the runway at the French Embassy in Northwest during a fashion show touted as the International Couture Collection on Sun., Sept. 23. /Photo by Roy Lewis

↓ **Ean Williams**, designer and executive director of DC Fashion Week, strikes a pose with models in his couture gowns at the French Embassy in Northwest on Sun., Sept. 23. The fashion show concluded DC Fashion Week. /Photo by Roy Lewis



## A Perfect and Fashionable Storm