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Weekend



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The polygamist sect won its court case Thursday.

Ordered Home: Court says sect kids must be returned | **3**

Cyclone Relief: Myanmar junta lashes out at donors | **10**



No Offense: The Nats keep struggling to score runs | **17**

ENTERTAINMENT

Shoe-In:

Sarah Jessica Parker and co. are fierce on the big screen in 'Sex and the City: The Movie.'



>> **21-32**



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

Report: Stonehenge Riddle Solved

DEEP SECRET: Archaeology students Sam Ferguson, left, and Steve Bush, right, sieve through earth among the stones at Stonehenge, England, during a March 31 excavation. In a study released on Thursday, scientists said Stonehenge served as a burial ground for at least 500 years, dating back to its beginnings around 3000 B.C. ❖ **'Domain of the dead':** A shrine to burials | **Page 7**

Suicide in Army Hits New High

115 troops killed themselves in 2007, the most on record

WASHINGTON | Army soldiers committed suicide in 2007 at the highest rate on record, and the toll is climbing ever higher this year as long war deployments stretch on.

At least 115 soldiers killed themselves last year, up from 102 the previous year, the Army said Thursday. Nearly a third of them died at the battlefield — 32 in Iraq and four in Afghanistan. But 26 percent had never deployed to either conflict.

"We see a lot of things that are going on in the war which do contribute — mainly the longtime and multiple deployments away from home, exposure to really terrifying and horrifying things, the easy availability of loaded weapons and a force that's very, very busy right now," said Col. Elspeth Ritchie, psychiatric consultant to the Army surgeon general.

Some common factors among those who took their own lives were trouble with relationships, work problems and legal and financial difficulties, officials said.

More U.S. troops also died overall in hostilities in 2007 than in any of the previous years in Iraq and Afghanistan.

PAULINE JELINEK (AP)

WILL HILLARY CLINTON TAKE HER FIGHT FOR THE NOMINATION TO THE CONVENTION? **A YES B NO**

FRIDAY 82 | 66 **SATURDAY** 84 | 63 **SUNDAY** 82 | 61

eyeOpeners



INVENTIONS

New Eco-Friendly Dryer Available Now!

Southampton, N.Y., board members who had drawn the line at hanging clothes outside to dry are cutting residents some slack: It's OK for them to use clotheslines now. The Southampton Town Board has lifted a ban on clotheslines that had stood since 2002, when some homeowners complained the laundry on their neighbors' lawns was making the tony Hamptons town look shabby. Town Councilwoman Anna Throne-Holst said being able to hang her children's clothes outside instead of drying them in a machine will keep her electricity costs down. (AP)

SAYINGS

Facial Hair Is the Coward's Face Mask

City officials in Houston, Texas, are apparently willing to dig deep to defend the police department's ban on beards. The City Council on Wednesday unanimously authorized spending up to \$150,000 to defend the city in a lawsuit challenging the no-facial-hair policy. "The lawsuit is pending, and we have to defend ourselves," Councilman Ron Green said. "But we're basically saying we want new police officers, but we don't want police officers with beards." Four police officers filed a federal civil rights lawsuit in November claiming the policy is discriminatory. The officers say the prohibition on beards and goatees is unfair for men who suffer from a skin condition that reacts negatively to shaving. The condition can cause severe irritation, rashes and ingrown hair. (AP)



DISCOVERIES

Nano Noodles

Japanese scientists say they have used cutting-edge technology to create a noodle bowl so small it can be seen only through a microscope. Mechanical engineering professor Masayuki Nakao said Thursday he and his students at the University of Tokyo used a carbon-based material to produce a noodle bowl with a diameter of 1/25,000 of an inch in a project aimed at developing nanotube-processing technology. The ramen bowl was carved out of microscopic nanotubes. (AP)

WILDLIFE

Crass Displays Of Consumerism Smell Like Honey

Orlando, Fla., police and wildlife offi-

cials were at Universal Studios looking for a bear seen taking a dip in the pool at the Hard Rock Hotel. Reports said a security guard at the hotel called police early Wednesday morning when he spotted the bear on a security screen.

The bear got out of the pool and was roaming the property. Wildlife biologist Mike Orlando said black bears are typically shy animals and that this one should not be a threat to residents in the area. (AP)



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"It was not the United States of America alone that believed that [Saddam] had weapons of mass destruction that he was hiding."

—Condoleezza Rice, rejecting Scott McClellan's charge that the public was misled about Iraq

Nation

THE TRAIL

DAILY DIARY | WASHINGTONPOST.COM

MEDICAL RECORDS

Obama Fit for Office

Illinois Sen. Barack Obama is in "excellent health," according to a letter from his long-time physician released by the campaign Thursday. And yes, that gum he's often chewing is Nicorette.

In the 21 years that Dr. David L. Scheiner, a Hyde Park, Ill., internist, has treated Obama, the senator has



Obama

reported a series of minor problems, like rashes, respiratory infections and unspecified — but possibly basketball-related — minor injuries, the letter said.

Scheiner last saw Obama in January 2007, before he hit the campaign trail. The fitness-conscious candidate jogs three miles regularly, his doctor reported, and "his diet was balanced with good intake of roughage and fluids." Obama's eating habits are notoriously disciplined. Staffers say he favors salmon for dinner and trail mix for snacks.

Obama's blood pressure was 90/60 and pulse 60/minute, Scheiner reported. "His build was lean and muscular with no excess body fat." He may have even less now, because the candidate seems to get thinner the longer he spends on the road. SHAILAGH MURRAY

washingtonpost.com

For extended analysis and up-to-the-minute reports from the campaign trail, visit blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail

Court Orders Sect Kids Returned

Texas justices say raid on polygamist ranch 'was not warranted'

SAN ANTONIO | In a crushing blow to the state's massive seizure of children from a polygamist sect's ranch, the Texas Supreme Court ruled Thursday that child welfare officials overstepped their authority and the children should go back to their parents.

The high court affirmed a decision by an appellate court last week, saying Child Protective Services failed to show an immediate danger to the more than 400 children swept up from the Yearning For Zion Ranch nearly two months ago.

"On the record before us, removal of the children was not warranted," the justices said in their ruling issued in Austin.

The high court let stand the



Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints members may soon be reunited with their children, thanks to a ruling by the Texas Supreme Court.

appellate court's order that Texas District Judge Barbara Walther return the children from foster care to their parents. It's not clear

how soon that may happen, but the appellate court ordered her to do it within a reasonable time period.

The ruling shatters one of the

largest child-custody cases in U.S. history. State officials said the removals were necessary to end a cycle of sexual abuse at the ranch in which teenage girls were forced to marry and have sex with older men, but parents denied any abuse and said they were being persecuted.

Every child at the ranch in the west Texas town of Eldorado was removed; half were 5 or younger.

"The moms are clearly very happy at the news that it looks like they're going to get their kids a lot sooner than expected," said Cynthia Martinez, a spokeswoman for legal aid attorneys representing 38 mothers who filed the complaint that prompted the ruling. "It's definitely an emotional day."

The case before the court technically applies only to the 124 children of those mothers, but it significantly affects nearly all the children, since they were removed under identical circumstances. MICHELLE ROBERTS (AP)

Reid: Delegates Must Choose Sides

Democratic leader predicts primary will be settled next week

WASHINGTON | Top Democratic leaders intend to push for a quick end to the battle for the presidential nomination when primaries are over next week, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Thursday, adding that he, House

Speaker Nancy Pelosi and party chairman Howard Dean will urge uncommitted delegates to choose sides.

"By this time next week, it will all be over, give or take a day," Reid said of the marathon race between



Reid

the front-running Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Obama is within 44 delegates of clinching the nomination, according to The Associated Press tally.

Reid made his comments in an interview and a speech in San Francisco. He and numerous other Democrats have expressed concern that a protracted nominating campaign could harm the party's chances of

winning the White House. John McCain effectively wrapped up the Republican nomination in March.

Reid, in an interview on radio station KGO in San Francisco, said he had talked since Wednesday with both Pelosi and Dean. "We agree there won't be a fight at the convention. ... We're going to urge folks to make a decision quickly — next week."

Pelosi has also said she hopes the nominating contest is wrapped up quickly. DAVID ESPO (AP)

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Nation



CURTAIN CALL: First, it was the film and the book. Now, the next stop for Al Gore's lecture "An Inconvenient Truth" is the stage. The Italian composer Giorgio Battistelli has been commissioned to produce an opera based on Gore's work for the 2011 season at the Milan opera house La Scala.

U.S. on Track for Railway Gridlock

Growing congestion on rails could disrupt the nation's economy

CHICAGO | Railway executive Matthew Rose stood before fellow industry leaders, pointing to a map meant to tell the future of the U.S. rail freight network. It was drenched in red — east to west, north to south.

The blotches illustrated areas where, by 2035, traffic jams could be so severe trains would grind to a halt for days with nowhere to go.

"For those of you who've ever seen a good rail meltdown, this is what it looks like," Rose, CEO of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp., said as the crowd in the hall shifted in their chairs. "It's literally chaos in the supply chain."

While the nation's attention is focused on air travel congestion and the high cost of fuel, a crisis is developing under the radar for another form of transportation — the freight trains used to deliver many of the



Some railway executives warn that the nation's 140,000-mile network of train tracks is becoming a bottleneck that is being overwhelmed by increasing freight traffic.

goods that keep the U.S. economy humming.

The nation's 140,000-mile network of rails devoted to carrying everything from cars to grain by freight is already groaning under the strain of congestion, with trains forced to stand aside for hours because of one-track rail lines.

And it's probably going to get worse over the next two decades, according to an analysis of government and industry projections by The Associated Press and interviews with experts on rail freight.

"It's not rocket science to see we have a calamity coming down the road," said Paul Bingham, an ana-

lyst at Global Insight.

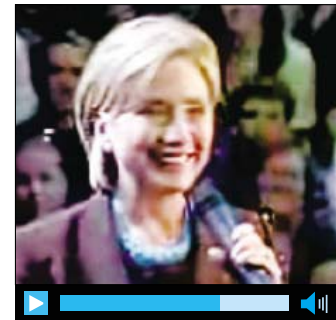
Many politicians are joining rail executives in sounding the alarm.

A crisis for the nation's rail-ways is developing under the radar.

"The amount of money we're investing nationally is pathetic," Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., said during a recent congressional hearing. "We're heading toward fourth-world infrastructure."

Others suggest the railroads are being alarmist. Kenneth Kremar, another Global Insight analyst, said talk of a looming crisis serves industry interests as rail companies jockey for money from Congress. He said investment in high-tech train cars and computer systems that better pace trains should help avert logjams. MICHAEL TARM (AP)

AdWatch

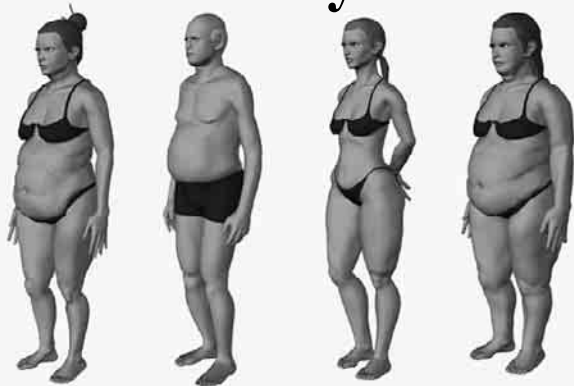


She's the only one in this campaign who voted against the Bush energy bill ... and she's the one who'll end \$55 billion in giveaways to corporate special interests and cut taxes for the middle class instead.

—CAMPAIGN AD FOR SEN. HILLARY CLINTON THAT IS AIRING IN MONTANA.

YOUR CALL: A man is suing Delta Air Lines for nearly \$1 million, claiming the company's incompetent and rude employees ruined his mother's birthday trip. (AP)

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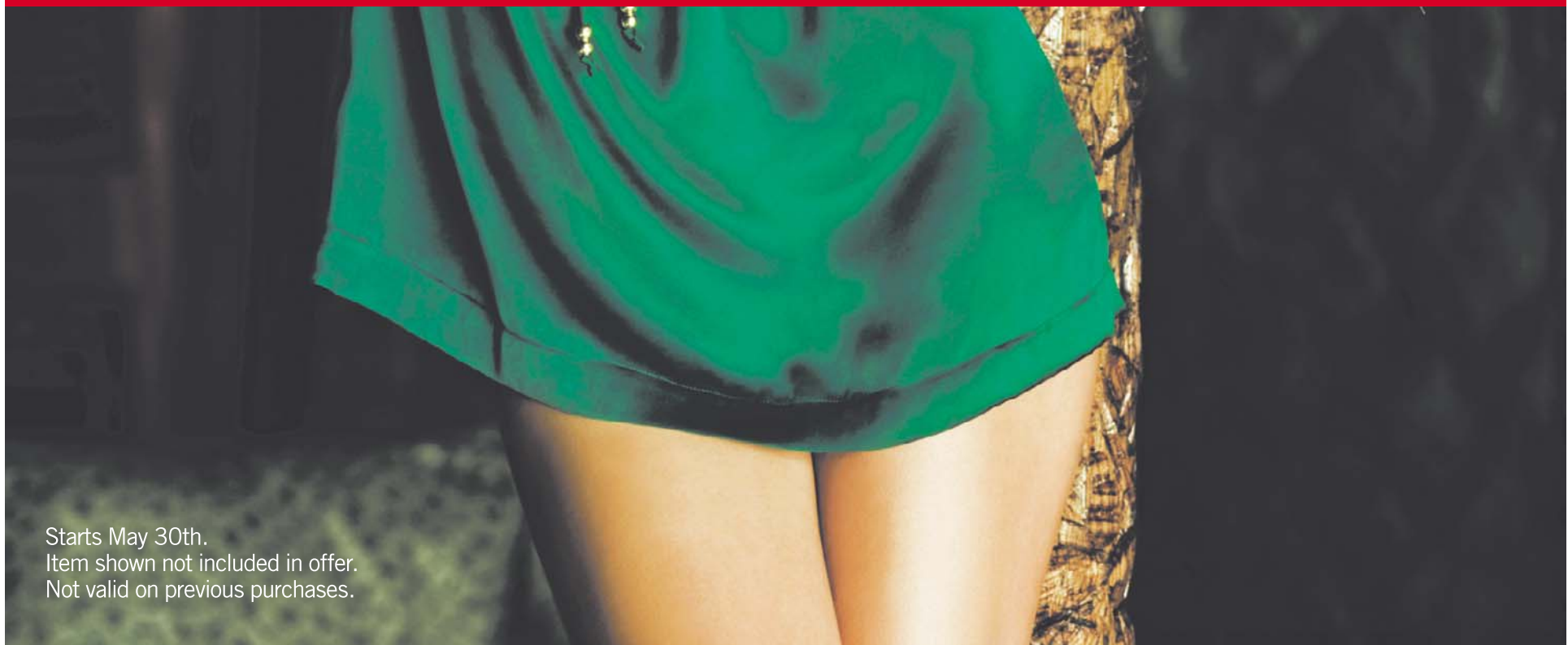


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STORY FOR THE GRANDKIDS: A man's marriage proposal triggered reports of UFOs, Bavarian police said Thursday. When officers investigated, they found 50 glowing lanterns that the man floated in air for the proposal. His girlfriend said "yes."

World

Stonehenge Identified as Cemetery

Archaeologists: U.K. site was burial ground for at least 500 years

SCIENCE | England's enigmatic Stonehenge served as a burial ground from its earliest beginnings and for several hundred years thereafter, new research indicates.

Dating of cremated remains shows burials took place as early as 3000 B.C., when the first ditches around the monument were being built, researchers said Thursday.

And those burials continued for at least 500 years, when the giant stones that mark the mysterious circle were being erected, they said.

In the past many archaeologists had thought that burials at Stonehenge continued for only about a century, the researchers said.

"Stonehenge was a place of burial from its beginning to its zenith in the mid-third millennium B.C. The cremation burial dating to Stonehenge's sarsen stones phase is likely just one of many from this later



Human bones from Stonehenge may have been buried as early as 3000 B.C.

period of the monument's use and demonstrates that it was still very much a domain of the dead," said Mike Parker Pearson, archaeology professor at the University of Sheffield in England and head of the Stonehenge Riverside Archaeological Project, in a statement.

The research was supported by the National Geographic Society, which discusses Stonehenge in its June magazine and will feature the new burial data on National Geographic Channel on Sunday.

RANDOLPH E. SCHMID (AP)



People take shelter at a tent after an earthquake in Iceland on Thursday.

Iceland Is Rocked By Quake

Magnitude-6.1 temblor injures 15 to 20 people, touches off landslides

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND | A strong earthquake shook southern Iceland on Thursday, causing more than a dozen injuries as it rocked buildings in the capital, touched off landslides and forced evacuations in outlying towns, officials and local media said.

Government officials reported that 15 to 20 people from Selfoss, 30 miles southeast of the capital of Reykjavik, were injured in the quake, none seriously. The U.S. Geological Survey said Selfoss was near the epicenter of the magnitude-6.1 quake, which hit at 3:46 p.m.

Sharp aftershocks were feared over the next few hours in the southwest of the country, and police traveled around the nearby town of Hveragerdi, 28 miles east of Reykjavik, with a bullhorn, advising people to stay outdoors. GUDJON HELGASON (AP)

In Brief

MANAMA, BAHRAIN
King Appoints Jewish Ambassador to the U.S.

Bahrain's king has appointed a woman believed to be the Arab



Nonoo

world's first Jewish ambassador as the country's envoy to Washington. Lawmaker Houda Nonoo, 43, said she was proud to serve her country

"first of all as a Bahraini," adding that she was not chosen for the post because of her religion. Nonoo has served as legislator in Bahrain's all-appointed 40-member Shura Council for three years. (AP)

PANAMA CITY, PANAMA
Chile's National Police Chief Killed in Helicopter Crash

Chile's national police chief and five other visiting Chileans were killed Thursday when their Panamanian



Bernales

government helicopter crashed into a building in Panama City. Chile's President Michelle Bachelet rushed to Santiago from northern Chile

when she learned of the death of Gen. Jose Alejandro Bernales, 59. Chile decreed three days of national mourning for Bernales. (AP)

LEIGU, CHINA | QUAKE RELIEF CONTINUES DESPITE SETBACKS



DISASTER ZONE CLEAN-UP: Workers wash themselves after disinfecting a refugee camp for earthquake survivors who lost their houses in the May 12 disaster in Leigu, China, on Thursday. A stockpile of chemicals used to disinfect another earthquake-shattered town ignited Thursday and injured scores of soldiers, hampering recovery efforts.

Pressure Mounts on Israel's Olmert

Political rival suggests prime minister should be replaced amid probe

JERUSALEM | Prime Minister Ehud Olmert suffered another blow Thursday when a key rival suggested he should be replaced

because of a widening corruption investigation.

With the comments from Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, Olmert now encounters an open rebellion in his Kadima party, making it increasingly unlikely he can survive the public uproar that has gripped the country since a key American witness described illicit



Israeli foreign minister Tzipi Livni talks to reporters in Jerusalem on Thursday.

cash payments to the luxury-loving Israeli leader.

Livni's comments came a day after Ehud Barak, the defense minister, called for Olmert to go and threatened to pull his Labor Party, a key coalition partner, out of the government and force new elections if he didn't comply.

"I suspect that Kadima needs to start right away acting for every eventuality, including elections," Livni told reporters. ARON HELLER (AP)

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World



Iraqi firefighters clean the site of a suicide blast that killed three police troopers in Mosul on Thursday. A separate explosion in the town of Sinjar killed 16 people.

Suicide Attacks Kill Dozens in Iraq

Blast in northwestern town kills 16 among group of jobseekers

BAGHDAD | A suicide bomber Thursday detonated explosives among a group of men seeking police jobs, killing 16 people at a recruiting station in northwestern Iraq, despite advance warnings of an attack.

The blast in Sinjar, about 240 miles northwest of Baghdad, occurred about three weeks after U.S. and Iraqi forces launched an offensive to drive al-Qaeda in Iraq out of Mosul, the terror movement's last major urban stronghold.

No group claimed responsibility for the blast, but suicide blasts are the signature attack of al-Qaeda.

The mayor of Sinjar, Dakhil Qassim, said security services had received tips that police recruiting centers would be targeted and had issued a warning the day before.

But jobs in the police and army

are so prized in parts of the country where unemployment runs high that desperate jobseekers showed up anyway, Qassim said. The dead included 14 would-be recruits and two policemen, Qassim said.

To the north, a suicide bomber driving a police vehicle blasted Iraqi commandos in Mosul, killing three troopers and wounding nine other people, according to battalion commander Capt. Aziz Latif.

Despite ongoing attacks, death tolls among Iraqi civilians and U.S. troops have dropped sharply in Iraq this month. An average of 17 Iraqis have been killed by violence each day this month as of Wednesday — the lowest level since 2005.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki touted his government's security successes at a U.N. conference in Stockholm, Sweden. He also called on neighboring countries to forgive debt and compensation payments, saying they are hindering Iraq's road to recovery. ROBERT H. REID (AP)

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7		9	1		4
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U.N.: High Food Prices to Remain

PARIS | World food prices are set to fall from current peaks in the coming years but will remain "substantially above" average levels from the past decade over the next 10 years, a report said Thursday.

The world's poorest nations are most vulnerable — particularly the urban poor in food-importing nations — and will need increased humanitarian aid to stave off hunger, according to a joint agricultural report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. (AP)

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According to Tomas Bilbao, Former Deputy Director of Operations for the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), "...these government grants allow people to go from being renters to homeowners, from being employees to employers. Thousands of people take advantage of these grants every year. The money is there and it's available."

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making plans to attend a Conference near you (see below). Admission is free, seating is limited and reservations are required.

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In some markets real estate prices are going down and foreclosures are at an all-time record high. The government has programs allowing you to take advantage of these opportunities as well.

Start Or Expand Your Own Business

Nike, Fed Ex, Intel, Ben & Jerry's, Quiznos, Jenny Craig and Columbia Sportswear (to name just a few!) all started with government subsidized loans from the SBA (Small Business Administration). The SBA has been told to get the billions allocated this year for business development pumped back into the economy.

The result? Funding programs for business start-up and expansion are at an all-time high. Billions of dollars have been distributed to eligible individuals through programs offering astonishingly favorable low-interest loan terms, as well as lucrative government subsidies (e.g., equipment & training grants) and government contracting opportunities, with mandatory set-asides for groups and areas specifically targeted for growth. And the best part? More money is available now than ever before! But knowing how to access these dollars is the key.

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Table 421. Federal Grants-in-Aid to State and Local Governments: 1990 to 2006

((\$135,325 represents \$135,325,000,000) except as indicated.) For fiscal year ending in year shown.

Year	Current Dollars			
	Total Grants (million dollars)	Annual Percent Change '11	Total (million dollars)	Percent of total grants
1990	135,325	11.0	77,264	57.1
1991	154,519	14.2	92,865	60.1
1992	178,065	15.2	112,522	63.2
1993	193,612	8.7	124,155	64.1
1994	210,596	8.8	134,153	63.7
1995	224,991	6.8	144,427	64.2
1996	227,811	1.3	146,493	64.3
1997	234,160	2.8	148,236	63.3
1998	246,128	5.1	160,305	65.1
1999	267,081	8.5	172,384	64.5
2000	284,859	6.6	182,592	64.1
2001	317,211	11.4	203,920	64.3
2002	351,550	10.8	227,373	64.7
2003	387,366	10.2	246,570	63.7
2004	406,330	4.9	267,177	65.5
2005	426,243	4.9	273,634	64.2
2006, estimate	449,277	5.4	287,634	64.0

FOOTNOTE: 11 Average annual percent change from prior year shown. For explanation, see Guide to Tables Presentation, Feb 1999, Change Item 1999.
A large percentage of this money goes to Medicaid and welfare programs.
Source: U.S. Office of Management and Budget, based on Historical Tables, Budget of the United States Government, annual. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/budget/0507/pdf/tables.pdf>
INTERNET LINK: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/budget>

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*The results shown in the testimonials presented are limited to the individual experiences represented and are not typical. They are presented for the limited purpose of demonstrating that government grant, loan and subsidy programs exist for particular purposes and should not be relied upon for any other purpose. Availability, terms, and amounts of grants and loans vary. You must meet program eligibility requirements to qualify. Individual performance depends upon the skill, time availability, and dedication of each participant. NGC customers who provide testimonials may receive rebates and/or prizes as rewards for sharing their stories regarding their success with NGC's products and services.

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Vienna, VA 22182
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Greenbelt, MD 20770
(Capitol Beltway to exit 22A)

• **TUE., JUNE 3RD**
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World



Cyclone survivors line up at an aid tent in Yangon, Myanmar, on Thursday. Myanmar's leaders criticized donors for pledging less aid than the junta said it needed.

Myanmar's Junta Criticizes Donors

State-run paper slams food handouts and foreign pledges of aid

YANGON, MYANMAR | Myanmar's ruling junta lashed out Thursday at aid donors who promised millions of dollars for cyclone relief, saying survivors didn't need "bars of chocolate."

A day after global powers voiced outrage at Myanmar's decision to extend pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest for a sixth straight year, state-run media lashed out at donors for pledging only up to \$150 million — a far cry from the \$11 billion the junta said it needed to rebuild.

The Myanmar Ahlin newspaper, a government mouthpiece, said cyclone victims could get by without foreign handouts.

"People from the Irrawaddy delta can survive on their own, even without bars of chocolate donated by the international community," it said, adding they can live on "vegetables that grow wild in the fields and on

protein-rich fish from the rivers." The reference to chocolate bars appeared to be metaphorical. No aid agency is known to be distributing them.

The newspaper also slammed an unnamed monetary institution, saying its refusal to help cyclone survivors was "an act of inhumanity."

“ People from the Irrawaddy delta can survive on their own, even without bars of chocolate.”

MYANMAR'S MYANMA AHLIN PAPER

World Bank Managing Director Juan Jose Daboub said last week that the bank will not extend aid or loans to Myanmar because it has not paid its debts for a decade.

Despite the harsh rhetoric, the United Nations reported that dozens of visas were approved for foreign aid workers to enter the country. (AP)

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Tuesday, June 3
Noon-1:30 pm

Rockville, MD
Tuesday, June 3
6-7:30 pm

Baltimore, MD
Thursday, June 5
6-7:30 pm



WHO KNEW? Enthralled with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao? You can now declare it on Facebook. It's not known who set up the page for the leader that now appears on the social networking site and features his official government photo. But the premier appears to have some fans — more than 26,000 users had signed up as his "supporters" as of Thursday.



CROWDED BRIDGE: Officials are predicting major delays as traffic heading from Maryland into Virginia is shifted onto the new second span of the Wilson Bridge. The work is scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. Friday and finish by 1 p.m. Sunday.

Local

WASHINGTON | SCRIPPS BEE CASTS ITS SPELL



ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

WORDY: Christian Thompson of Adsecon, N.J., spells a word during the first round of the 2008 Scripps National Spelling Bee at the Grand Hyatt Washington on Thursday. The Championship Finals are Friday at 8 p.m.

Purple Line Estimates Up

Transit officials' report says light-rail system could carry 68K per day

Maryland transit officials have determined that a future Purple Line light-rail link between Bethesda and New Carrollton would carry up to 68,000 people daily, a number that supporters said Thursday morning will only increase as gas prices soar.

More detailed travel time estimates also show that, depending on the kind of transit system cho-

sen, those trips could take nine minutes between Bethesda and Silver Spring, and 27 minutes between Silver Spring and College Park, according to the state's draft environmental impact study of the project.

Maryland transit officials say those figures, along with the project's estimated maximum price tag of \$1.75 billion, would make a Purple Line competitive against other projects around the country that will be competing for a limited pool of federal transit money.

"It clearly compares very favorably," said Michael D. Madden, the Maryland Transit Administration's project manager on the Purple Line study.

The light-rail system, with the estimated 68,000 daily ridership figure, would be the most expensive option being considered.

He said that ridership estimate is 20,000 trips higher than earlier projections because state transit officials had not previously considered potential Purple Line trips made by both Metro and MARC riders.

KATHERINE SHAVER (THE WASHINGTON POST)

FBI Raids Md. State Senator's Home

DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MD. | FBI agents went to the home of a prominent Prince George's County lawmaker Thursday after serving a search warrant at the headquarters of a supermarket, an FBI spokesman said.

Richard Wolf, a spokesman with the FBI's Baltimore field office, said

agents went to the home of Democratic state Sen. Ulysses Currie but wouldn't say why agents were at the home or whether a search warrant had been served.

Agents served a search warrant earlier Thursday at the headquarters of Shoppers Food Warehouse in

Lanham, the FBI spokesman said. Wolf disclosed both events when asked about the agents at Currie's home but would not discuss how the two were related. Currie, chairman of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, could not immediately be reached for comment. (AP)

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Local

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The amount, in millions of dollars, tourists spent at Virginia Beach in 2007, according to a study done by Old Dominion University economists. City officials say overall spending rose 4 percent and that 2.73 million people visited the city last year, down 0.7 percent from 2006.

34 Are Convicted In Gitmo Protest

Thirty-four people were convicted Thursday of misdemeanor charges stemming from a demonstration at the Supreme Court in January that targeted conditions at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

D.C. Superior Court Judge Wendell P. Gardner Jr. agreed with prosecutors, who said the demonstrators violated the law on Jan. 11 by protest at the the Supreme Court plaza, where such activities are banned.

KEITH L. ALEXANDER (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Another Guilty Plea in D.C. Tax Case

Alleged ringleader's brother bought Bentley, home, other luxuries

GREENBELT, MD. | The brother of the alleged ringleader of a scheme to steal millions of dollars from the District of Columbia's tax office pleaded guilty Thursday in federal court.

Richard Walters, 49, of Bowie, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to receiving stolen property

and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

According to a plea agreement, Richard Walters and his sister Harriette Walters deposited \$4.9 million of fraudulent D.C. tax refund checks into the bank account of Richard Walters' plumbing company.

During that same time, more than \$1 million was transferred from the plumbing account to Richard Walters' personal bank account, the agreement states.



One of the St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, properties Richard Walters bought.

Money was also used for luxuries such as the construction of a home in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Washington Wizards season tickets and a 2005 Bentley.

Richard Walters is the fourth person to plead guilty in the case. He faces a possible sentence of 10 years in prison for receipt of stolen property and 20 years for the money laundering conspiracy charge.

He must also repay the \$4.9 million put into the plumbing account. (AP)

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WASHINGTON | MAYOR GREETES FELLOW RIDERS



CYCLIST PRIDE: Mayor Adrian Fenty talks to bikers before changing into his riding gear and heading out on a workout ride through Hains Point Thursday afternoon. Fenty says he runs three days a week and bikes twice a week.

The Lotteries

Thursday, May 29

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	9-4-2
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	4-3-3
Mid-day DC 4	0-9-9-2
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	9-2-3-1
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	9-16-17-18-25
Daily 6 (Wed.)	6-11-16-28-35-36 (24)
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	3-14-17-32-33 (6)

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.)	10-18-22-37-45 (9)
Power Play	2X

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	0-7-4
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	6-5-1
Mid-day Pick 4	8-6-9-9
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	8-7-9-4
Match 5 (Wed.)	2-26-28-30-38 (8)
Multi-Match (Wed.)	10-15-17-36-37-39

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3	5-8-1
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	2-7-3
Mid-day Pick 4	8-7-9-0
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	5-9-5-7
Mid-day Cash 5	6-12-17-18-20
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	3-13-15-16-19
Win For Life (Wed.)	6-10-22-26-32-36

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.



SWIM RARE: A life preserver from the ill-fated Titanic voyage is going on the auction block next month in Manhattan. It is one of six believed to have survived to this day. Christie's says the preserver will fetch \$60,000 to \$80,000 at the June 25 auction.

Money

Bear Stearns Arrives at Bitter End

Investors OK buyout deal with JPMorgan Chase worth \$2.2B

NEW YORK | Bear Stearns shareholders have approved JPMorgan Chase's \$2.2 billion buyout, ending the saga of the 85-year-old pillar of Wall Street that crumbled under the weight of its own wagers on high-risk mortgages.

The tumult is far from over, however, for JPMorgan Chase & Co. — which now must mesh Bear Stearns' maverick culture with its own — and the thousands of workers affected by the takeover.



Bear Stearns worker Davis Edwards carries personal items from his office.

Bear Stearns officially becomes part of JPMorgan Chase on Friday, after a widely anticipated "yes" vote that won with 84 percent of the vote Thursday morning at Bear Stearns' midtown Manhattan headquarters. The meeting, led by Bear Stearns' chairman James Cayne and CEO Alan Schwartz, lasted less than 10 minutes, leaving some Bear Stearns' shareholders angered by the speed at which the deal closed.

"They were up there drinking coffee paid with my money ... and we lost our money overnight," said Hannah Horgan, a Bear Stearns shareholder. "I have nothing left, and they were so calm."

Back in January 2007, before mortgage defaults began clobbering banks and draining demand from the debt markets, Bear Stearns had traded at \$171 per share. Now, JPMorgan is buying the firm for about \$10 per share. The acquisition is resulting in thousands of layoffs.

"I think it's a shame," said Davis Edwards, who was loading the contents of his office into an SUV parked outside Bear Stearns Thursday. Edwards worked at Bear Stearns for 11 years.

"This was a very prolific and lucrative firm," Edwards said. "There's a lot of good people in there." MADLEN READ (AP)

GM Clears Way for New Hires

Automaker says 17,000 employees are taking early buyout

DETROIT | General Motors Corp. said Thursday that a quarter of its U.S. hourly workers will take the company's latest buyout and early retirement offers, opening the door

for new hires who will make less money.

The automaker said Thursday that 19,000 workers had agreed to take the buyout offers and leave the company by July 1. GM offered buyouts to all 74,000 of its U.S. hourly workers in February.

GM never said how many workers it hoped would take the buyouts, but under a new labor agreement reached last fall with the United Auto Workers union, GM may hire up to 16,000 non-assembly workers at half the old wage of \$28 per hour. GM said it would fill job openings with current employees wherever possible but would also be hiring new workers.

Troy Clarke, GM's North American president, said GM is trying to reshape its business in a challenging U.S. market. DEE-ANN DURBIN (AP)

Sapporo to Test New 'Space Beer'

TOKYO | Japanese beer-lovers can anticipate an out-of-this-world brew: suds made with barley descended from grains that traveled in outer space. The "space beer," to be test-brewed by Sapporo Breweries Ltd., will come in a pilot edition of 100 bottles to be ready in November, said company spokeswoman Momoko Matsumura.

The beer will be made with barley — to be harvested this weekend — descended from seeds that spent five months in 2006 aboard the International Space Station.

"We're really looking forward to tasting it when it's ready," Matsumura said. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers			
STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Orbitz n	8.06	+.90	+12.6
ExprsJet	2.12	+.22	+11.6
Medifast h	6.20	+.64	+11.5
Primedia rs	5.91	+.57	+10.7
EnrgySol n	24.88	+2.33	+10.3
Losers			
MensW	21.17	-2.45	-10.4
Navios	12.02	-1.38	-10.3
NwpkRs lf	6.96	-.74	-9.6
HeclaM	9.00	-.65	-6.7
ArenaRes s	48.50	-3.42	-6.6

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	8.25	8.25
Fed Funds close	5.23	5.23
3-month disc	4.76	4.81
2-year	4.68	4.64
10-year	4.67	4.68
30-year	4.83	4.86

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers			
STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
KosanBio	5.43	+3.78	+229.1
SilverStB n	3.39	+.90	+36.1
Ultralife	12.71	+3.04	+31.4
MerueloM	2.77	+.58	+26.5
Iomai	6.38	-.02	-0.3
Losers			
MedNutrit	2.24	-.46	-17.0
CmtyPtrBc	7.40	-1.25	-14.5
ParentCo n	2.27	-.38	-14.4
KMG Ch	10.72	-1.77	-14.2
CmtyVlyBc	8.71	-1.30	-13.0

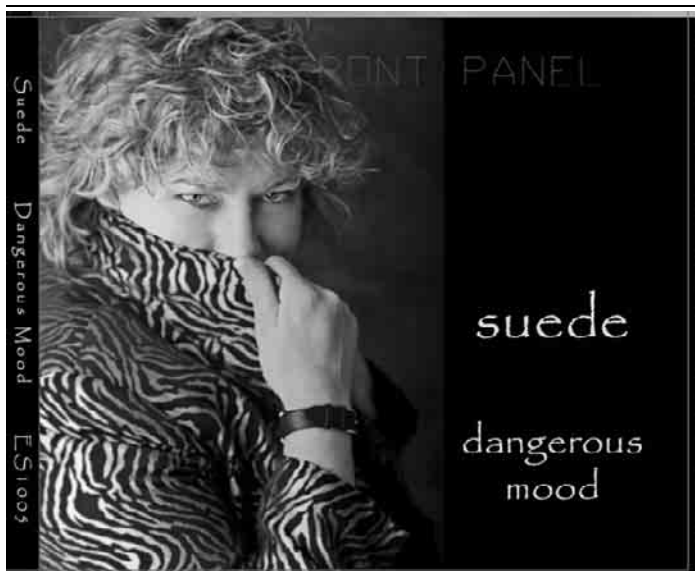
Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5063	.5050	.5050
Canadian Dollar	.9889	.9902	1.0734
European Euro	.6449	.6396	.7434
Japanese Yen	106.38	105.26	121.55
Mexican Peso	10.3306	10.3520	10.8195
Taiwanese Dollar	30.49	30.58	33.13

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
+52.19	+21.62	+7.42
+0.41	+0.87	+0.53
12646.22	2508.32	1398.26

Pharmacy Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
AbtLab	55.96	+1.86	-.3
Allergan s	56.23	+1.07	-12.5
AstraZen	43.64	+.33	+1.9
BarrPhm	43.68	+.88	-17.7
BrMySq	22.48	+.39	-14.2
Cephln	67.77	+.31	-5.6
ForestLab	35.68	+.86	-2.1
Hospira	41.36	+.75	-3.0
JohnJn	66.42	+1.54	-.4
LillyEli	48.60	+.75	-9.0
Merck	38.92	+.26	-33.0
Pfizer	19.40	+.10	-14.7
SchergPl	19.84	-.25	-25.5
WarnerChil	17.63	...	-.6
Wyeth	44.40	+.25	+5



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THESE STORIES AND MORE THIS SUNDAY



➔ Fan's Farewell

This is the final season for the Yankees and Mets to play in their current ballparks. A fervent fan heads to the Big Apple to say farewell. **TRAVEL**

➔ Wayne's World



Wayne Brady, host of Fox's "Don't Forget the Lyrics," talks about his multifaceted entertainment career. **TV WEEK**

➔ Birth of a Conflict

A new book looks at Israel's war of independence in 1947 and 1948, and the expulsion of Arabs that gave birth to an ethnic conflict. **BOOK WORLD**

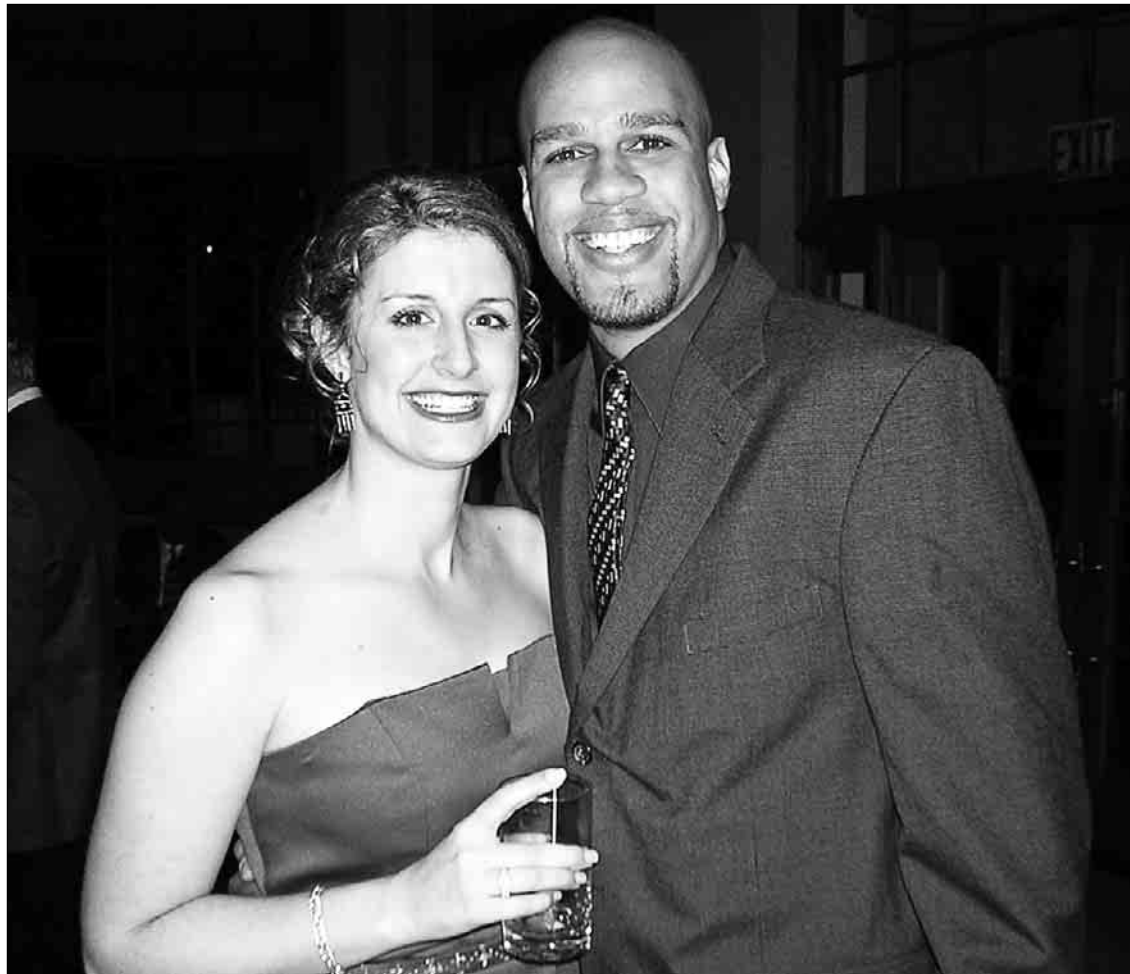


➔ Girls' Night Out

"Sex and the City" is an old story in Hollywood, going back to the first of the girls-in-the-big-city movies, 1932's "Three on a Match." **STYLE & ARTS**

➔ Punished Enough?

Michael Short knows he was wrong to sell cocaine, but he and lawmakers are questioning whether he needed 15 years in prison to learn his lesson. **MAGAZINE**



A VERY HAPPY HOUR: After Lynne and Kwame DeRoche kissed at a happy hour, their friendship developed into something more.

Buddies in Love

'When Harry Met Sally' is the story of these couples' lives

IN SUNDAY SOURCE | Can men and women be friends? I mean, can they really be just friends? OK, yeah. Yes. And yet:

"All friendships, even same-sex ones, have ambiguous and changing boundaries," says Linda Sapadin, a clinical psychologist and author of "Now I Get It!: Totally Sensational Advice for Living and Loving." "You may think somebody's a best friend, and they just consider you a casual friend. How it's perceived is not always the same."

In other words: Your perspective can shift. Suddenly, you see a friend as desirable, but he or she still sees you as only a friend. Which leaves you with two choices, Sapadin says: You can try to change it to a roman-

tic relationship. Or you can learn to live with it so that there's flirtatious banter but nothing else.

It's sexual attraction without acting on it. And the primary reason many of us don't act is fear: the worry that if our friend rebuffs us or if the move from platonic to romantic fails, the friendship is irrecoverable.

But sometimes the friendship moves of its own accord.

Take Lynne and Kwame DeRoche, for instance. The couple, who celebrated their seventh wedding anniversary in April, say that when they met, they never considered each other as anything but a buddy. An office confidante.

Then came the slip. They were talking on the phone one weekend, planning to meet up that evening, when Lynne concluded the call by saying, "OK, love ya. Bye."

Love ya?



Rob and Melissa Floyd were friends for years before they fell for each other.

Kwame didn't skip a beat. "Love you, too. Bye."

Neither acted on those words

until a happy hour three months later, when, fueled by booze and, perhaps, pent-up emotion, Lynne kissed him.

That act wasn't so much a matter of crossing the boundary between friendship and romance; it was more a matter of erasing it.

"Everything that had happened before that was us dating," Kwame says. "We'd basically been dating for six months and didn't know it."

for more ...

IN SUNDAY SOURCE

Read more about friends who have negotiated the rough road to love, plus questions to ask yourself if you're thinking of taking that road.

IN *The Washington Post*

Then there's Melissa and Rob Floyd. They were friends for three years in the most platonic sense. She used his washer and dryer; he cooked for her; she cut his hair. He had a girlfriend, and she thought of him as nothing more than a good friend.

By 1998, both were single. Melissa was living abroad and Rob often traveled overseas for work, so they decided to meet in Turkey for a vacation.

There, driving down hairpin roads rimmed with goats and donkeys, "we were essentially completely alone, completely relaxed," Rob says. "It environmentally allowed us to realize and think about what we meant to each other and what a life together could be."

"Generally, sparks happen when they're supposed to," says Greg Behrendt, author of "He's Just Not That Into You: The No-Excuses Truth to Understanding Guys." "Can you come back and meet somebody and they're in a different place? Sure. But now you've met a different person."

"I like to think I grew up in that heartbeat," Melissa says of that trip. "He was a really good friend, and someone who probably knew me better than almost anyone at that time. I think I just realized that's what I wanted: I wanted that person who knew me so well, and loved me because of that."

"Plus," she says, "he's cute." **JULIA FELDMER (SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST)**



NATIONALS

Batter Down: The Nationals are among the worst in the majors this season at getting on base and producing runs | 17

Sports Weekend

Reverse Slam Dunk

Kobe Bryant has made a complete turnaround in the last few years

NBA PLAYOFFS | Kobe Bryant was being humble, like a proper superstar should. It's good for the image, something Barry Bonds never figured out and likely regrets now that his playing days are over.

Game 4 against the San Antonio Spurs had ended just moments before, and Bryant was now on national television telling everyone how it was his mistake late in the game that almost cost the Los Angeles Lakers a playoff win.

Never mind that it was Bryant who actually won the game for the Lakers. It's all about image building, and there's nothing that plays better among fans than a star who admits his mistakes.

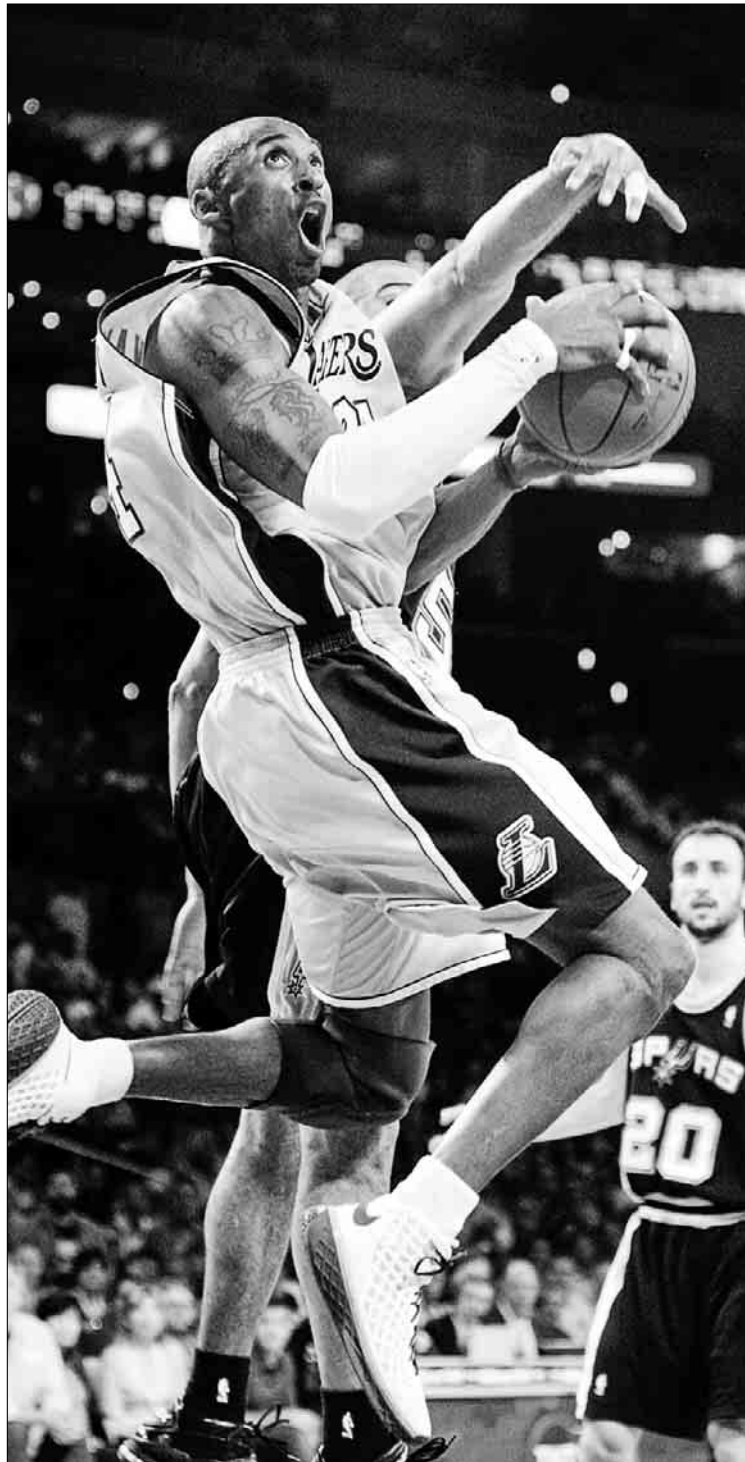
And if there's anyone who knows about having to build — make that rebuild — an image, it's Bryant.

It's hard to believe it was less than five years ago when he sat in a courtroom in Eagle, Colo., listening as a prosecutor recounted in graphic detail how Bryant allegedly forced himself on a 19-year-old woman in a hotel room.

Bryant was not the most beloved of players, even before the woman went to police with her charges. A lot of fans regarded him as selfish and petulant, despite the three NBA championships he and Shaquille O'Neal teamed up to give the Lakers.

But quarreling with teammates and being accused of rape are two entirely different things. And there wasn't a lot to love about the picture painted in court.

There was never a trial, even though the judge thought there was enough evidence to hold one. Sexu-



TURNED AROUND: Kobe Bryant is the league MVP and is hoping to get his first NBA title sans Shaquille O'Neal. More importantly, he's kept clear of bad publicity.

Late Game

→ Game 5 of the Western Conference finals ended after Express' deadline. Get results and in-depth analysis | **Today, Sports**

IN **The Washington Post**

al assault charges that could have sent Bryant to prison for many years were dropped after the woman said she couldn't face the public spectacle of testifying.

Money was paid to settle a civil suit, though no one ever said how much. Part of the deal was that everyone had to keep quiet, in hopes it would all fade away.

Fast-forward a few years, and it seems to be working.

The sponsors who wanted nothing to do with him now court him with promises of millions of dollars and ad campaigns where he jumps over cars. One of the most all-American brands, Coca-Cola, is using Bryant to sell flavored water, and Nike has a campaign for the shoes he will wear in the Olympics.

He's the MVP of the league for the first time, and a change in numbers only helped sell more jerseys. Sometime next month he's likely to be standing on the court celebrating another NBA title, and sometime in August he'll likely be at the head of the line in China when Olympic gold medals are being handed out.

His public rehabilitation is now almost complete. The questions are now about basketball.

No one except Bryant and his accuser know exactly what happened in that hotel room.

What we know is that it now seems so long ago, even if it isn't. Most fans no longer care, if they ever did. **TIM DAHLBERG (AP)**

TV Lineup



Rafael Nadal improved to 23-0 at the French Open with a win on Thursday.

friday

8:30 P.M. The Pistons must win at home to force a Game 7 against the Celtics. **ESPN**

3 P.M. French Open coverage continues throughout the weekend as we get into the meat of the action. **ESPN2**

saturday

8:30 P.M. If the Spurs were able to survive Thursday's Game 5 in L.A., they have to win another one. **TNT**

8 P.M. The Penguins got a needed win over the Red Wings in their first game at home. They can even the series in Game 4, also in Pittsburgh. **NBC**

8 P.M. Some of the world's best sprinters will be in New York for the Reebok Grand Prix. **NBC**

sunday

1:30 P.M. NASCAR is in Dover, Del., this weekend for the Best by 400. **FOX**

3:30 P.M. Candace Parker and the Sparks come to Washington to play the Mystics on national TV. **ABC**

2:30 P.M. The final round of Jack Nicklaus' Memorial is Sunday. Without Tiger, it's anyone's tournament. **CBS**

8 P.M. If necessary, the Celtics will play Game 7, their 21st playoff game this year, at home. **ABC**

Noon The college softball world series started on Thursday. But just wait for Sunday's semifinals. **ESPN**

8 P.M. The Dodgers (L.A., not Brooklyn) are in New York to play the Mets in Sunday night baseball. **ESPN**



BASEBALL **Not Worth His Weight in Bats** The Calgary Vipers picked up some big bats in a trade last week — literally. The team traded pitcher John Odom to the Laredo Broncos last week for 10 good maple baseball bats. The Vipers signed Odom about a month ago but couldn't get him a Canadian visa because of a criminal record Odom thought had been expunged. So, they tried to trade him for Laredo's best hitter, but he balked at living in Calgary. "I don't really care," Odom said. "It'll make a better story if I make it to the big leagues." **(EXPRESS)**

Saunders Is Flip on Future

Coach says the Pistons can win Game 7 — if they make it there

NBA PLAYOFFS | Flip Saunders doesn't sound like a coach worried about his future.

The Celtics won Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals, pushing the Pistons to the brink of elimination and a possible shake-up.

Saunders has already outlasted his predecessors, Larry Brown and Rick Carlisle, both of whom lasted just two years. But if Detroit loses in the conference finals for a third straight season, there's a chance Saunders won't be back for a fourth year.

The Pistons' nucleus, which has been together since winning a title in 2004, might also get broken up with another loss.

Saunders shrugged off the pres-



Pistons coach Flip Saunders says his team still has a good chance to advance.

COLLINS TALKS WITH BULLS
Doug Collins talked about returning to the Bulls as coach, but there is no agreement yet:

→ Known for his emotional style, Collins also coached the Wizards and the Pistons. The Bulls had been interested in Mike D'Antoni before he took the Knicks job. The Chicago Sun-Times reported on its Web site Thursday that the job would go to Collins.

sure on him going into a win-or-go-home matchup Friday night at home, saying he's excited.

"I really believe if we get Game 6, that we're going to have a good opportunity in Game 7," Saunders said.

If Boston falls to 0-3 in Game 6's this postseason, it will host its third Game 7 on Sunday night.

Paul Pierce said the last thing he and the Celtics are thinking about is being tired from their grueling run.

"The only thing on my mind is getting a win, getting a step closer to being in the NBA finals," Pierce said after helping Boston beat Detroit 106-102 Wednesday night to take a 3-2 lead in the series. "I don't think fatigue is going to be a factor for the rest of this series. The guys physically, for the most part, are feeling good, and it's all about mental toughness right now."

Even though the Celtics have the cushion of another home game, coach Doc Rivers wants his team to play with a sense of urgency.

"We don't want to go to a Game 7," Rivers said. "We want to win this now if we can. They're not going to let us win it. We're going to have to come in and take it." LARRY LAGE (AP)

Blake Eliminated Early From the French Open

TENNIS | James Blake's frustration rose to a crescendo Thursday.

The top U.S. man in the French Open was talking to himself, and the words were growing louder. He was bothered by the clay underfoot. By the chair umpire. By his own play. And, most of all, by the drop shots and assorted other winners his up-and-coming foe produced.

For the fifth time in six career trips to Roland Garros, Blake departed before the third round, losing to Ernests Gulbis of Latvia 7-6 (2), 3-6, 7-5, 6-3. It was part of a 1-3 showing by American men Thursday, when Mardy Fish and Bobby Reynolds also lost.

"Americans a lot of times don't have the highest expectations on clay," Blake said. "But I really felt like this match today was a match I could have won." HOWARD FENDRICH (AP)

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Nats' Bats Have No Pop

Washington's horrid hitting puts pressure on the team's pitchers

NATIONALS | Maybe they can petition to use aluminum bats.

While that may be a dangerous proposition, Washington hitters have been anything but threatening with their wood bats this season.

Entering Thursday's game in San Diego, the Nationals had the worst team batting average in Major League Baseball (.234). That dipped to .232 when runners were on base, accounting for the fourth-lowest run total (208) in the majors. None of their middle-of-the-order players was hitting over .257. No one had more than eight home runs. The list of frustrations goes on and on.

All of those stats combine to put pressure on the team's pitchers to be nearly perfect. While the Nationals' staff has been respectable, any team with a 4.43 ERA is going to need a little help to put wins on the board.

"I've just got to go out there and do my job. I've got to throw up zeros no matter what," starter John Lannan said. "The hitting will come around. You really don't think about it that much [on the mound]."

The Nationals had held their opponents to five runs or fewer five times in their last six games,



Lastings Milledge reacts to striking out during Monday's loss. Jason Bergmann threw 5 2/3 scoreless innings but got a no-decision.

	WASHINGTON AT ARIZONA	
1	2	3
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yet lost four of them.

On Monday, starter Jason Bergmann threw 5 2/3 shutout innings, but

took home only a no-decision when the Nationals lost 4-3 in 11 innings.

"It puts a little pressure on [starting pitchers] because you've got to try to shut down the opposition," manager Manny Acta said.

Yes, Aaron Boone's hitting .300 has been a surprise, as has the production from the catcher spot, where Wil Nieves and Jesus Flores are a combined 35 for 107 at the plate. Cristian Guzman is off to another

strong start, but as the only regular hitting above .300, there's no one hitting behind him to drive him in.

"They may put a little pressure on themselves knowing we haven't been scoring here much lately," Lastings Milledge said. "But as crazy as it may seem, I think it's actually helped our pitchers throughout the year. They haven't really been giving up a lot of runs, and they've been keeping us in the game." **ERIC BRANDNER**



Jody Gerut watches his three-run home run in the eighth inning on Thursday.

Nationals Lose To Padres on an 8th-Inning Blast

NATIONALS | Jody Gerut hit a three-run homer with one out in the eighth inning to give the San Diego Padres a 5-2 win over the Washington Nationals on Thursday.

The Padres took two of three in the matchup of last-place teams.

Gerut's second homer of the season came three batters after Washington's Ryan Langerhans made a spectacular leaping catch to rob Kevin Kouzmanoff of a home run leading off the eighth inning.

Heath Bell (2-3) pitched the eighth inning for the win, and Trevor Hoffman pitched a perfect ninth for his 11th save in 13 chances.

Wil Ledezma, making his third start in place of Jake Peavy, left with a 2-1 lead after five innings.

Starter John Lannan threw six innings for the Nats, striking out five and allowing two runs. (AP)

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No Easy Road for Detroit

Wings allow the Pens back into the series, just like in the past

STANLEY CUP | The Red Wings have been through this before.

They jump to big leads over teams that seem grossly over-matched, then find ways to let them back in the playoffs.

The Nashville Predators caught up to Detroit in the first round, and the Dallas Stars put a scare into the Presidents' Trophy winners after falling into an 0-3 hole in the Western Conference finals. Only Colorado proved easy pickings, swept by the Red Wings in



Detroit goalie Chris Osgood dives back to stop a shot by the Penguins' Pascal Dupuis.

the second round.

Now, the Penguins are a win away from squaring the Stanley Cup finals through four games. Are the Red Wings vulnerable, or do they have the Eastern Conference champs right where they want them?

"We didn't come into the series thinking we were going to win four straight," goalie Chris Osgood said. "We were hoping to, but to say we expected it to be a hard series would be right on."

Detroit was again dominant at times during its 3-2 road loss to the Penguins on Wednesday and was coming on strong before running out of time. The Red Wings are playing well and still lead 2-1 in the best-of-seven series.

"It's not over after you're up 2-0 or 2-1," defenseman Nicklas Lidstrom said Thursday, the first of two straight off days. "You have to have that mentality that you have to stick with it for four wins." IRA PODELL (AP)

WNBA's Best Show Comes to Washington

MYSTICS | It doesn't get much better than this for a WNBA regular season game.

Mystics coach Tree Rollins said earlier this week that the L.A. Sparks, who come to Washington this weekend, are made up of "900 all-stars." That's a bit of an exaggeration, but the team features three of the greatest players in women's hoops history: veterans Lisa Leslie and DeLisha Milton-Jones and rookie phenom Candace Parker.

With Leslie at the helm, the Sparks have long been one of the premier teams in the WNBA, winning league titles in 2001 and 2002.

But last year, the franchise struggled while Leslie took the year off to have a baby. That may have been a blessing in disguise. L.A. got the top pick in this year's rookie draft and snagged former high school

dunk champion Parker. The versatile offensive threat set a WNBA record by scoring 34 points in her first league game.

With Parker joining the 6-foot-5 Leslie (15 points per game this year) and the 6-foot-1 Milton-Jones, a



Parker

former Mystic who seems to have regained her shooting touch after a tough year, the Sparks seem to have regained their form. They were 2-0 heading into Thursday night's game at Indiana.

"The thing that makes her so valuable is her versatility on the floor," Mystics GM Linda Hargrove said of Parker. "She can shoot; she can handle; she can dunk." TIM FOLLOS

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Cyclist Takes Another Lap

D.C. amateur returns for his 11th shot at the nation's hardest crit

BIKE RACING | When Russ Langley was working as a bike messenger in D.C. 15 years ago, he used to dream, like a lot of messengers do, about becoming a professional bike racer. But his knees gave out, he gave up being a messenger and pretty much forgot about racing.

Then, he met a girl who convinced him to try again, and he rode at the inaugural CSC Invitational in 1998.

"I attached myself to it immediately," Langley said. "You want to relive it and relive it, but at the next level and the next level. So, I knew I wanted to race at the pro level."

For the past two years, he's been riding with Battley-Harley Davidson, the only amateur team racing in the



Pro racers ride during the 10th annual CSC Invitational last year in Clarendon.

pro race at this weekend's CSC Invitational in Clarendon on Sunday.

The race is 100 laps around a 1 kilometer course that winds through Clarendon with seven turns. Langley calls it the nation's hardest crit race, which is on a short course with many laps. Since racers have to slow down to go around the turns, everyone is up and sprinting after every one, which means 700 sprints in a little

more than two hours. Generally, a little more than 30 racers finish out of the group of about 125 who start it. Langley's goal is to once again be in that group that finishes, and maybe get teammate to the podium.

"They have shown they can compete well," race director Rob Laybourn said of Battley Harley. "And it provides us with a local team we can rally behind." IAN HERBERT (EXPRESS)

Swengali

STADIUMS | BY MATT SWENSON, MATT.SWENSON@READEXPRESS.COM

Bring Redskins Back to the City

HAVING GROWN UP IN AN ERA when you had to drive to the old Capital Center to see most of Washington's sports teams play, I find the idea of keeping the locals inside city limits appealing.

I hope D.C. United gets its new stadium in Southeast, and I suspect it will, given the backing of former mayor Marion Barry and current Mayor Adrian Fenty. (Remember when Fenty was very against using public funds for sports venues?)

More than that, though, here is what I wish for: I dare to dream that someone will come into a huge stash of TNT and use it to blow FedEx Field to Timbuktu.

It seems so backward that the Wizards, Capitals, Nationals and

United are playing in D.C., when the one team that enthalls the nation's capital more than any other is stuck in Prince George's County. And not only that, but the Redskins' stadium stinks — more than Heath Shuler ever did as a quarterback.

Lacking any atmosphere, and being not the most accessible of venues, FedEx Field is a monstrosity. I know Jack Kent Cooke tried to get a new home in Washington, but city officials balked at paying for better roads and infrastructure.

Now we are stuck paying for that mistake, as in that \$35 parking fee Dan Snyder charges at the decrepit house Cooke built.

Perhaps D.C. has learned from losing the Redskins, which is why new stadiums keep cropping up. Now let's hope Fenty can save enough cash to lure back the one that got away.

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Entertainment Weekend

The fantastic four are older, wiser and just as fabulous

FILM | The clothes! The shoes! The magical depiction of Manhattan and the promise of finally finding true romance!

It's like porn for women. And we haven't even gotten to the sex part of the "Sex and the City" movie yet.

Fans will be thrilled to see their old friends — Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte and Samantha — back together and on the big screen, which makes it easier to ogle what they're wearing, of course. Everyone else? Well, they never watched the HBO series and if they did, they didn't get it. Or they're heterosexual men.

But writer/director Michael Patrick King and producer/star Sarah Jessica Parker certainly know their audience: the devotees who've already reserved group tickets for opening weekend, which they'll celebrate in high style, complete with the requisite cosmopolitan consumption and needless shopping sprees.

In that regard, this hotly awaited follow-up to the hit TV show, which ended in 2004, is a success. This is one of those movies you have to

Despite its obsession with Manolo Blahnik, 'Sex' also has its tearjerker moments.

assess in terms of whom it's aiming to please, not unlike the 3-D Hannah Montana concert film: The audience has very specific tastes and needs.

Surprisingly, despite its obsession with all things Manolo Blahnik, "Sex and the City" also has its share of tearjerker moments. Parker has become such a fashion icon over the past decade that you forget she really can act and is capable of visceral,

Sex Appeal

SARAH JESSICA PARKER
as every woman's style guru, Carrie Bradshaw.



heart-tugging vulnerability. And not to say too much, but she does get plenty of opportunities to display that side of her talent — especially with a running time that's well past two hours.

It's all really soapy, though, with only some smidgens of substance. Co-star Cynthia Nixon's story line is meaty, but more often than not our heroines are defined solely by the partners in their beds and the

It's like porn for women. And we haven't even gotten to the sex part of the 'Sex' movie yet.

clothes on their backs, as if to suggest that the right wardrobe and a big enough closet to put it all in are the keys to ultimate happiness.

It is indeed a giddy, fizzy kick at the top, with Parker's Carrie breathlessly catching us up on what's been going on with the four girlfriends over the past four years. Carrie, of course, ended up with Mr. Big (Chris Noth). Now that she's grown up and moved on from writing columns to books, the two are scouring New York for the perfect apartment (i.e. one with sufficient closet space) — even though they're not officially engaged.

Yes, marriage matters now to these women who were primarily on the prowl for satisfying romps when "Sex and the City" entered the cultural consciousness a decade ago. But the characters were younger then — and so were the actresses playing them. Perhaps it's only inevitable that their priorities would shift, but the sexual liberation the TV show introduced certainly still lingers.

Sitting through this extravaganza of extravagance, though, I couldn't help but wonder ... is this movie ever going to end? It takes about as much time as watching five episodes of the series all in a row

Then again, one girl's slog is another girl's celebration.

CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

→ **Got Plans?**

FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

So, I hear Regina Spektor is giving a free concert on the Mall this weekend as part of the Israel birthday celebration. Any idea when she'll be on?

It looks like around 3:30 p.m. for Regina Spektor. And you'll get three chances to see Oscar the Grouch, 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Inigo Montoya himself, Broadway and TV star Mandy Patinkin, is the emcee for the event.

→ *The National Mall between the U.S. Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial; 301-230-7200. (Smithsonian)*



Jazz is the word at HR-57. The club is BYOB, but expect a \$3 corking fee.

When is the best time to get into HR-57 on Saturday? My friends and I have been contemplating a night out there and were worried about getting a bunch of people in if we go too late. Also, is there a cover? Thanks!

It's rarely overflowing there, so I don't suspect you'll have any problems unless you have a particularly large group. Before 10 p.m. is always a good rule of thumb if you're worried about getting there too late, and you can expect to pay a \$12 cover.

→ *HR-57, 1610 14th St. NW; 202-667-3700 (U St.-Cardozo)*

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Since his Broadway debut in 1980, **Mandy Patinkin** has extensive award-winning credits on and off Broadway, including *Evita* and *Sunday In The Park With George*. He has appeared in over 20 films and has starred in numerous television shows, recently including *Criminal Minds* on CBS.

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Liv in the Now

Tyler's career may be hectic, but she's fully committed to it

OVERWORKED | Liv Tyler is momentarily confused when told her new movie is scary.

"Wait a minute, which movie are we talking about?" she queries. She has two movies opening a week apart.

The first is a disturbingly realistic suspense drama called "The Strangers," opening today, in which she plays a woman terrorized for hours by a trio of masked psychos. The low-budget scare-fest is by first-time writer-director Bryan Bertino. A week later, she co-stars with Edward Norton in the action-packed "The Incredible Hulk."

In "The Strangers," she and co-star Scott Speedman play a couple who are staying in a rural cottage. A stranger arrives at the door, asking for someone neither of them knows. Soon after, some eerie noises are heard outside then inside the house. The masked home invaders never reveal their identities or why they've targeted this particular couple.

Making the suspense thriller was emotionally and physically challenging, recalls Tyler, who got banged



BAD NEIGHBORS: Liv Tyler is terrorized by mysterious stalkers in "The Strangers."

up after running, falling and fighting for days on end.

She perfected her so-called "screen scream," which she found therapeutic. But the physical demands of the role took a toll on the actress. She developed tonsillitis and had to take a week off to recover. By the end of the shoot, Tyler's pale, almost translucent skin, was black and blue. The makeup artist even covered her bruises and cuts and painted on fake ones, because the real ones were simply too dramatic.

The suspense thriller is based

on an event from Bertino's childhood. A stranger had come to his home asking for someone. Later, he found out that empty homes in the neighborhood had been ransacked. With that creepy memory in mind, Bertino took it several steps further in his debut screenplay.

Though she considers herself a horror buff, "The Strangers" is Tyler's first foray into the genre.

"As a kid I was sort of obsessed with scary movies," she reveals with a chuckle. **ANGELA DAWSON** (ENTERTAINMENT NEWS WIRE)

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Another Facet For Jewel

CROSSOVER | Back when playing a San Diego coffeehouse was a big gig for her, Jewel Kilcher had an inspiring vision of fame. She'd read about intellectuals who gathered to find common ground in disparate pursuits, each bringing his or her own ingredient to create a magical stew of ideas. That, she figured, had to be what it was like for the famous and the fabulous in the modern pop music world — lying about swapping songwriting tricks and unusual



Jewel lets her country self sing out on "Perfectly Clear," due out June 3.

chord progressions.

"Wrong," she said. It turned out, of course, that the pop music world was a petty place, laced with narcissism and insecurity, where collaboration can be difficult.

So, Jewel set off on her own path, and she's done pretty well for herself. Since the 1995 release of her

debut, "Pieces of You," she has sold roughly 27 million albums — about one every 15 seconds, 24 hours per day, for 13 years. All along, she said, she was driven largely by a quest to find authenticity in the music business.

She realized it was here all along, in Nashville, where she'd recorded all but one of her records. For her seventh album, "Perfectly Clear," Jewel has gone country. Largely self-produced, the album will be released on June 3.

There are subtle suggestions that Jewel has entered a new and strange world. Still, she said, this feels like home.

"I've always loved this town," she said. "You can throw a rock and hit somebody in the head who is more talented than you." **SCOTT GOLD** (LOS ANGELES TIMES)



CRAMPED QUARTERS: The Pietasters, a staple of the D.C. music scene, practice in lead singer Steve Jackson's garage.

Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

The "Sex and the City" movies arrives in theaters today, but most of the parties and celebrations have ties that are tenuous at best; they seem like ad hoc "have a cocktail before you and your girlfriends see the movie!" gatherings. The best we've seen is a Race for the Cure fundraising happy hour tonight at **MATE**, which is especially appropriate given the "Samantha has breast cancer" story line in the final season of the show, and star Cynthia Nixon's recent announcement that she was diagnosed with the disease. From 5 to 7 p.m., Mate is offering \$6 cocktails, \$7 specialty martinis and half-price appetizers and sushi. From 7 p.m. on, there's a \$10 suggested donation at the door, which will be donated to Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Those who donate get special \$5 cosmos. We should probably point out that Mate is right next door to the AMCLoews Georgetown 14, which is showing the movie at 9:

35 p.m. and 10:15 — earlier times are already sold out.

As the Pietasters enter decade No. 2 on the D.C. music scene, it only seems natural that the area's flagship ska band is dialing down a bit. The band's recent album, "All Day," is a throwback to vintage '60s reggae and rocksteady, eschewing the aggressive punk-ska edge of songs like "Maggie Mae" and "Perfect World" — the very sound that led to the band's late-'90s stint on Hellcat Records and its appearances on the Warped Tour. At the same time, the music is better than it's been in years. We're looking forward to seeing how new songs slot in alongside fan favorites "Girl Take It Easy" or "Dollar Bill," and we'll get our chance tonight when the Pietasters headline the annual **HERNDON FESTIVAL**. There's no cover, but you'll want to bring a couple bucks for funnel cake before the music starts.

SATURDAY

Annapolis has always been a favorite day trip for its historic colonial atmosphere, waterfront location and numerous bars for crawling. You can get a taste of Maryland's centuries-old capital today during the annual Tavern Tour, which pops in at 18th-century pubs as well as modern dockside restaurants. The day kicks off at 1 p.m. at the old **FED-**

ERAL HOUSE on the City Dock and includes stops at eight bars, including the popular waterfront rum bar Pusser's Landing and the college favorite Acme, for \$2 Miller Lites and other various specials. The night wraps up with a party on the spacious patio of the Sly Fox Pub from 9 p.m. to close. Tickets are \$10, or \$7 if you bring two cans of food for the Anne Arundel Food Bank.

We're sure there are plenty of reasons to hit Artomatic today, but we can't think of a better one than Mambo Sauce. The breakout go-go band of 2007 had the best go-go song of the year: "Welcome to D.C.," which name-checks Chuck Brown, Madness gear, Backyard Band and the expression "Lunchin', Joe" over an irresistible synth groove, growling guitars and a pocket that's tighter than Secret Service protection. If any go-go band is going to break out of D.C. right now, our money's on this one. Check out Mambo Sauce on the **ELECTRIC STAGE** at 10 p.m., and arrive earlier to wander through the displays set up by hundreds of area artists. As always, there's no cover at Artomatic, but donations are appreciated.

An extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" is always available at www.washingtonpost.com/cityguide

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BABY MAMA (PG-13, 96 minutes) Tina Fey is an overachieving corporate vice president who hires a working-class party girl (Amy Poehler) to be a surrogate mother: Angie, a hard-edged, slightly ditzy dame who has decided to rent out her womb at the advice of her loser of a common-law husband, Carl (Dax Shepard). Fey and Poehler could easily have become caricatures. Instead, each actress gives her character her dignity, grounding her as a recognizable human being. For those who crave mannerisms and shtick and like their jokes set up and knocked out with plenty of arrows and quote marks, the film may fall flat. But audiences alive to the modest charms of its take on female friendship will be rewarded with at least a few quiet chuckles. (AH)

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG, 137 minutes) Those plucky Pevensie children make an impressive if somewhat repetitive return in this second installment. Wicked King Miraz (Sergio Castellitto) has driven the Narnians of old underground and set out to murder Narnia's rightful ruler, the young and handsome Prince Caspian (Ben Barnes). Once again, the four young crusaders do battle with the forces of evil, and once again they prove that a ragtag team can overcome swords and catapults



ADVENTURE SHOT: Shia LaBeouf, as Mutt Williams, and Karen Allen, as Marion Ravenwood, live on the edge in "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

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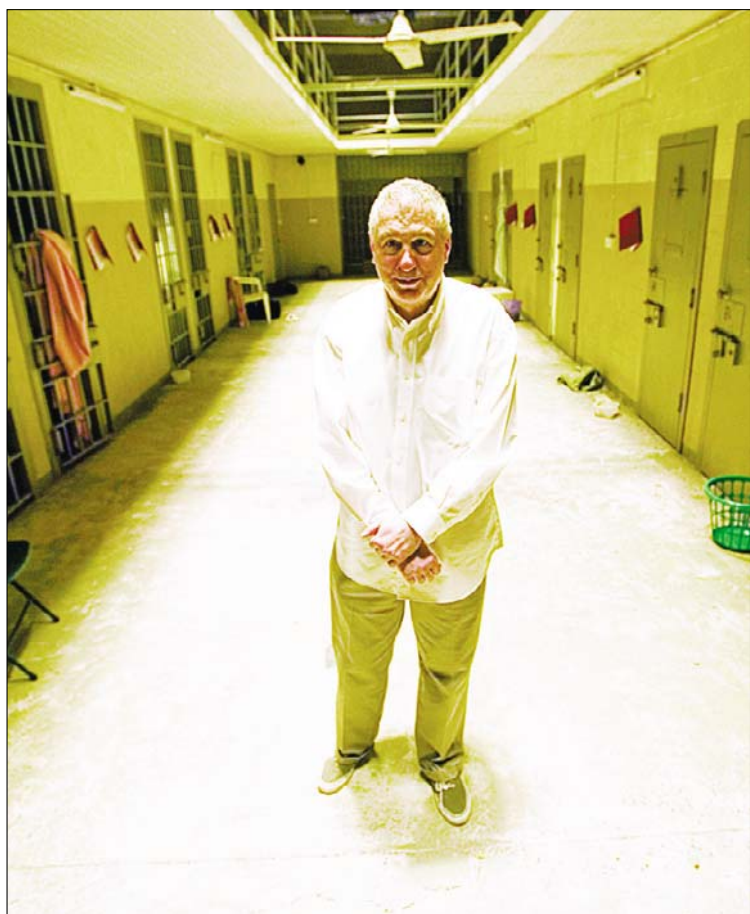
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Entertainment **Weekend**



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SCANDAL AT ABU GHRAIB: Errol Morris directed "Standard Operating Procedure."

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through the sheer force of goodness. The Pevensies still make for terrific tween protagonists, and Aslan, the majestic mythical lion voiced by Liam Neeson, is still a breathtaking manifestation of the Cat Upstairs. (AH)

THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13, 113 minutes) Jason Tripitikas (Michael Angarano) is an American teenager in the present day. His friendship with an elderly pawnshop proprietor in Chinatown leads to a journey to ancient China. He finds himself hurtling into the past, dispatched to return a precious wooden staff. And he teams with a scruffy, drunken kung fu master (Jackie Chan). Chan manages to endear himself in the worst of movies, which is what he does here. The kung fu includes master fighter Jet Li as a warlord, but it's wan and disappointing, all choreography and no real damage. People fly with all the grace and credibility of a Photoshop animation quickie. (DT)

FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R, 110 minutes) We can either laugh or weep at man's infinite capacity to do stupid things. Which is why guffawing at the naked guy flexing his breasts in this film is not only time enjoyably spent, but philosophically cathartic. The male of the species — amusingly hapless Peter (Jason Segel)

— retreats to Hawaii, trying to get over a traumatic breakup, only to find himself in the same hotel as his recent ex, TV actress Sarah Marshall (Kristen Bell). The movie follows producer Judd Apatow's doctrine perfectly, which is to use semi-improvisational scenes to find the hilarious interface between man's vulnerability and dorkability. (DT)

HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R, 102 minutes) Success-motivated Harold (John Cho) and stoned slacker Kumar (Kal Penn), get arrested and racially profiled on a flight to Amsterdam after Kumar lights up an electronic bong that looks rather like a bomb. An idiotic Homeland Security agent (Rob Corddry) has them sent to Guantanamo Bay. They escape and make their way back to clear their names. The political satire in this semi-obscene frat-house romp has a really clever edge, so it's too bad the film limits its audience with such fatiguing lewdness. JANE HORWITZ

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG-13, 126 minutes) The boy is back in town. Indiana Jones, the macho, whip-flinging archaeologist with the granite fists? Well, yes, him. Or Harrison Ford, 65, still rangy, still cool in a '30s fedora? Yes, that one, too. The movie follows Jones (Ford) on a series of contests between good Yanks and bad Russkies, first for an alien corpse

Continued on page 26

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Open Letter to Howard Dean and The DNC

Florida and Michigan are not going away. Neither is the lesson of 2000. Back then it was the Republicans who thought subverting a basic premise of our Democratic process, counting all the votes, didn't matter. Eight disastrous years later, we know how wrong they were.

This year it is we Democrats who are about to violate that basic premise.

Mistakes in judgment were made by all sides. If there are punishments for breaking "the rules" they should be applied to the rule breakers, not the voting citizens. And not a punishment that violates the democratic process itself. Excluding Michigan and Florida from the nomination process is unacceptable: we are a nation of fifty states, not forty-eight.

The Florida and Michigan delegates must be seated in accordance with the results of their primaries. In Florida, since both Senators were on the ticket, the solution is obvious. It was a valid, certified election on a level playing field and the validity of its result is not in question. In Michigan, the solution is less obvious. But there is a solution.

As reported by the Des Moines Register in October of 2007, Senator Obama decided to take his name off the ballot. This was a political decision. He then arranged with the Michigan Democratic Party to have his name represented by a line that read, "Uncommitted". John Edwards joined him and voters who went to the polls that day knew that "Uncommitted" represented both Senator Obama and John Edwards. The evidence suggests that the electorate knew this because "Uncommitted" received 40.7% of the votes, the second highest total. And Senator Clinton was not the only candidate on the ballot, other Democratic candidates were listed as well. The question to be resolved is how to apportion the "Uncommitted" vote.

John Edwards consistently received, on average, 14% of the vote in the primaries in which he competed. Using that as a guide and based on the Michigan totals of 238,168 votes cast for the "Uncommitted" line, Edwards would then receive 89,158 votes and Senator Obama 149,010. We think this is not only fair, but probably under counts what a populist like John Edwards would have received in Michigan. We also suggest the delegates be apportioned accordingly.

It is time for the DNC Rules committee to do the right thing. Florida and Michigan delegates must all be seated. The popular vote totals must now include voting figures for all three candidates for all fifty states.

After what transpired in 2000, the Democratic Party cannot afford *not* to count the votes.

To do anything less could cause serious damage to the Democratic Party, not just in November, but for years to come.

Signed, Concerned voters (full list at www.countthevotescast.org/letter.php)

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Continued from page 25

in America, then for a crystal skull in Peru and finally for the site of the crystal skull, a magic city in Central America. The joinery between each segment is mostly chewing gum, baling wire and spit. Almost on the template of "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "Crystal Skull" ends with an invocation of awesome power in one of those grandiose special-effects sequences for which George Lucas's Industrial Light & Magic shop is so well-known. Does it pay off? Maybe not quite, but the movie sends you out as it should, exhausted and happy, and you won't begin to think about its flaws for hours. (SH)

IRON MAN (PG-13, 120 minutes) Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) is taken prisoner by a warlord who orders him



WELCOME BACK, GWYNETH: Madame Paltrow returns to the big screen as Pepper Potts in the superhero thriller "Iron Man."

to build a state-of-the-art weapon. Instead, Stark builds a suit of iron, the better to bust out of the cave and give his enemies a beat-down. The real Iron Man doesn't emerge until Stark is back in California. He announces that his company is getting out of the weapons business. Thenceforth, the film sets about the business of proving that plowshares can be as sexy as swords. It succeeds only fitfully. Amid so many generic fireballs, kill shots and earsplitting thumps, bumps and crunches, the film finally collapses under its own weight. (AH)

MADE OF HONOR (PG-13, 101 minutes) Patrick Dempsey and Michelle Monaghan have it all, in terms of looks, likability and even how they blend together. But they're hapless prisoners in a nasty little caper that follows convention as conventionally as possible. Tom (Dempsey) is a lady-killer, and Hannah (Monaghan) is the one woman he never quite seduces. Who becomes his best friend. And the one, he realizes, he has been in love with all along. Cue the impossibly wonderful Colin (Kevin McKidd), whom Hannah decides to marry. So she asks Tom to be her male maid of honor. You'll never — ever! — guess how this turns out. (BT)

NIM'S ISLAND (PG, 95 minutes) The plucky heroine at the center of this film is an 11-year-old girl named Nim (Abigail Breslin), who, since her mother died at sea, has lived with her scientist father, Jack (Gerard Butler). When Jack goes plankton hunting and leaves Nim behind, mayhem breaks loose. As luck would have it, her favorite author, the world explorer Alex Rover, e-mails her dad for research information, resulting in the world-famous writer making a trip to Fiji to come to Nim's aid. Jodie Foster comes in, and she gamely hits her mark. Kids will no doubt vicariously enjoy Nim's adventures and Edenic existence. And how refreshing to see a girl embark on derring-do that, in Nim's own words, makes her the hero of her own story. (AH)

REPRISE (R, 105 minutes) In his feature film debut, Joachim Trier has created a movie that posits its protagonists on a Swiss Army knife's worth of thematic edges: art and madness, youth and experience, love and obsession, obscurity and fame. That he does it with such a deft sense of equilibrium makes this one of the more intriguing entries this year. Erik (Espen Klouman-Hoiner) and Phillip (Anders Danielsen Lie) are childhood friends teeming with literary ambition who at the outset of the movie send off their respective manuscripts for publication. Only Phillip's is accepted. The film says many cogent things about success and what it does to people; it also

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Entertainment **Weekend**



IN LOVE: But mainly drunk. Crazy kids tie the knot in "What Happens in Vegas."

K.C. BAILEY/20TH CENTURY FOX

Now Playing

indicts the mechanics of the culture in a way that is neither Danish nor American, but globalized and all the more poignant for it. (JA)

SON OF RAMBOW (PG-13, 96 minutes) This film dusts the clichés from the coming-of-age movie with its charming account of the growing friendship between two English boys in the early 1980s. The teens are Will (Bill Milner), a soft-spoken but plucky lad forbidden by his family's religious sect to watch television, and Lee (Will Poulter), a punky kid whose volatile family life causes him to act up at school. Thrown together by circumstance, they soon realize that their teamwork fills an emotional void in their lives. They infuse this story with a crowd-pleasing combination of buoyant spirit and occasionally dark humor, as Will, Lee and a very eccentric French exchange student (Jules Sitruk) attempt to revisit Sylvester Stallone's one-dimensional machismo territory with the goofy earnestness of youth. We cringe and laugh at—and are ultimately moved by—their clumsiness and innocence. (DT)

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (R, 127 minutes) Errol Morris takes the scandal at the military prison of Abu Ghraib as his laboratory and sets out to contextualize the famous pictures of harsh treatment of Iraqi prisoners by American service personnel. The movie is a tapestry of talking heads, and at last these young people have a chance to talk. If the movie is meant to uncover any "big scandals," it's a disappointment. The investigator, in one surprising sequence, goes through a number of alleged "torture" photos and acknowledges that the vast majority of them represent "standard operating procedure." That is supposed to be the film's kicker: not what was illegal but how much was legal. (SH)

STREET KINGS (R, 107 minutes) The movie's moral relativity (that the dividing line between good cop and bad cop is a matter of inches) seems like a flimsy pretext for hard-core shock value: nasty violence, colorful cussing and multi-bullet executions. The big-name casting brings no honor, or even fun, to the hackneyed roles. Forest Whitaker treats his clichéd cop commander as if he were a gravitas-laden Iago. Keanu Reeves's too-cool-to-emote approach keeps us eternally

Continued on page 28

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Weekend Entertainment

Now Playing

Continued from page 27

distanced. And as a Machiavellian internal affairs officer, Hugh Laurie phones in the jaded, wiser-than-thou mannerisms of Dr. Gregory House, his character in TV's popular "House." (DT)

THEN SHE FOUND ME (R, 100 minutes) April Epner (Helen Hunt) is a 39-year-old teacher whose biological clock is clouding her judgment: April is marrying Ben. Like anything done for the wrong reasons, there's an implicit doom hanging over the nuptials. And then the domestic



FAR, FAR AWAY: The Pevensie children enjoy a boat ride with a strange creature in "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian."

effluence hits the rotary appliance: Mom dies. Ben leaves. And local TV celebrity Bernice Graves (Bette Midler), materializes to announce that she is April's biological mother. In the midst of this, Frank (Colin Firth), one of April's school dads, whose wife has abandoned him and their two children, starts lighting up April's life. The film suffers from, if anything, a lack of pure confidence in the story, the actors or the audience. But anyone going to see it won't need quite the number of clues as to how they're supposed to be feeling. They'll know. And a lot better, and a lot sooner, than April Epner. (JA)

21 (PG-13, 123 minutes) Micky Rosa (Kevin Spacey), MIT professor by day, gambling

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Weekend

Now Playing

Continued from page 28

entrepreneur by night, who recruits six of his best and brightest students to fly to Sin City on weekends and cheat themselves rich. It's hard to throw them a high-five. Yes, Ben Campbell (Sturgess) is a sweet, lower-middle-class kid who has dreamed all his life of going from MIT to Harvard med and accepts Micky's invitation into the circle only to put himself through school. Unfortunately, this characterization feels too saintly, too schematic. The story may be based on real events, but most of it feels patently false. It's a would-be parable about greed that emptily celebrates it and a story about the giddiness of risk-taking that safely plays everything by the numbers. (DT)

THE VISITOR (PG-13, 103 minutes) Richard Jenkins plays widowed economics professor Walter Vale, who reluctantly agrees to give a paper at NYU and, upon arriving at his Manhattan pied-à-terre, discovers that it has been illegally subtlet to Tarek (Haaz Sleiman) and Zainab (Danai Gurira), both of whom are undocumented. After first throwing the couple out, Vale impulsively takes pity on them. What ensues is a remarkable friendship and, when Tarek's mother arrives, a budding romance. The film gives viewers a perceptive, deeply personal take on the timeless immigrant narrative, in which the most epic journey is finally one of self-discovery. (AH)

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG-13, 99 minutes) Not that this film is any kind of great movie, but it's an exceedingly bright comedy that never makes you feel stupid for enjoying its brisk pacing, smart lines, sound construction and superb comic acting. Ashton Kutcher and Cameron Diaz have gone to Vegas for some healing. They meet one drunken evening and get married. Okay, time for quickie divorce, except she gives him a quarter, he feeds it into a slot machine and they win \$3 million. Who gets it? Each tries to get the whole pot, and an irritable judge (Dennis Miller) isn't satisfied they've tried hard enough, so he sentences them to live together for six months. The real pleasure in the film comes from the two stars, both of whom put vanity and narcissism far behind and are pleased to let the movie deploy them as less than noble, less than capable, less than smart, less than selfless and less than beautiful and, therefore, more than human. (SH)

YOUNG@HEART (PG, 110 minutes) This film is a festival of good behavior, a little talent, a lot of work and a kind of com-

Continued on page 30



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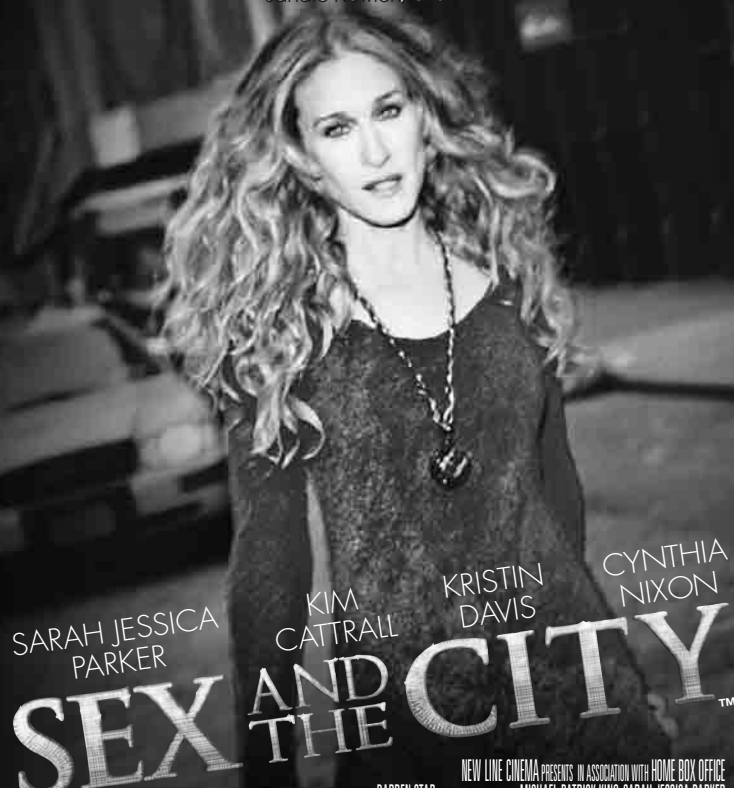
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Now Playing

Continued from page 29

mitment to the ideas that shows must go on, that individuals must sacrifice for the whole and that doing good is better, though harder, than talking good. It follows a choir of generally peppy septuagenarians from Northampton, Mass., through six weeks of practice, trial, tribulation and performance. The gimmick that has propelled the group to a small measure of fame is that they're rockers, rappers and punkers. Singing in the chorus gives meaning to life; living for the whole and not the self, the love of comrades of the same circumstance and situation, that's what keeps them alive. (SH)

REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S ANN HORNADAY, STEPHEN HUNTER, MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN, DESSON THOMSON AND TERESA WILTZ. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT



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INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) ★ (1120)
1150 1245 230 300) 330 400 545 615 645 715 845 915 945 1010 1145

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715 745 950 1020 1050

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1230 100 130 315 345 415 445) 630 700 730 800 930 1000 1030 1100
OC & DA: CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (1245) PM
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (1145 1215 300)
330 400) 615 645 715 1000 1030

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG-13) (1130 200 500) 745 1025
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355 510) 620 730 830 945 1045

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1230 115 215 300 345 430 530) 615 700 745 845 930 1015 1100

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(930 955 1020 1050 1135 1210 1245 105 135 205 250 320
400 420 450 520) 605 635 715 735 805 835 920 950 1030 1050

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SEX AND THE CITY (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (1000 1030 100 130 400
430) 700 730 1000 1030

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745 915 945 1015 1045

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THE STRANGERS (R) - ID REQ'D (1115 130 345) 600 815 1020
1015 1016 1130

SEX AND THE CITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 115 415 445) 715 716 800
1015 1016 1130

INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) ★ (1130)
115 145 215 400 430 500) 645 715 745 930 1000 1030

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (1200 315) 630
945

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG-13) (100 320 540) 800 1020
MADE OF HONOR (PG-13) (1140) 440
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SEX AND THE CITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 1230 245 345) 615 700 945
1015

THE STRANGERS (R) - ID REQ'D (1115 1230 145 245 400 500) 630
715 830 1045

INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) ★ (1030)
1130 1215 1245 115 300 330 400 430) 615 645 715 745 930 1000 1030
1100

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN - DP (PG) (1000 100)
415) 730 1030

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (1215 315)
IRON MAN (PG-13) (1030 130 430) 630 730 945 1015
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG-13) (1100 130 345) 600 815 1100
BABY MAMA (PG-13) (1045 115 330) 600 815 1100
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SEX AND THE CITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1100 1150 1220 1250 210) 310 340
410 520 630 700 701 730 830 950 1020 1021 1050 1200

OC & DA: INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) ★ (1215) PM
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1150 1245 230 300) 330 400 545 615 645 715 845 915 1010 1145

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN - DP (PG) (1210) 320
650 1000

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1215 1245 115 145 300 330 400 430 500) 615 645 715 845 915 930
1000 1030 1100

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SEX AND THE CITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1015 1050 1220 1255 130 205 335
410 445 520) 650 725 800 635 1005 1040 1115 1150

THE STRANGERS (R) - ID REQ'D (1030 1210 1250 230 310 450 530)
710 750 930 1015 1150

INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) ★ (1020)
1055 1145 1245 120 155 255 325 355 430 505) 600 630 700 735 810
855 925 955 1030 1105 1200

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THE STRANGERS (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (1150 1255 200 300 410
510) 635 735 845 945 1100

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145 250 315 350 450) 610 640 710 800 920 950 1020 1105

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CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (Stadium) (1105)
1205 225 320 620 925

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG-13) (Stadium) (1240 330) 605 1105
SPEED RACER (PG) (Stadium) (1235) 625
MADE OF HONOR (PG-13) (Stadium) (335) 935
IRON MAN (PG-13) (Stadium) (1100 155 455) 630 745 930 1040

COUNTRYSIDE STADIUM 20

45980 Regal Plaza 800-FANDANGO 394#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE HAPPENING (R) - ID REQ'D ★
Adv. Tix on Sale THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale KUNG FU PANDA (PG) ★
THE STRANGERS (R) - ID REQ'D (950 1050 1210 150 240 420 510) 650
740 910 1010

SEX AND THE CITY (R) - ID REQ'D (940 1015 1045 1145 100 130 200
300 400 445 530) 615 715 800 845 930 1030

OC & DA: INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) ★ (1230) PM
INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) ★ (930)
1000 1030 1100 1130 1200 110 140 210 230 310 330 410 430 500 540)
600 630 700 730 810 830 900 940 1000 1040

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN - DP (PG) (1010) 120
440) 750

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (1150 1240) 320
650 1000

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG-13) (1215 245 520) 745 1015
SPEED RACER (PG) (1220) 610
MADE OF HONOR (PG-13) (325) 925
IRON MAN (PG-13) (1140 250) 620 720 920 1020
BABY MAMA (PG-13) (1135 205 435) 710 945
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) - ID REQ'D (1155 235 515) 755
1035

FOX STADIUM 16

formerly Consolidated Theatres
22875 Crawford Piz. Ashburn, VA 703-957-1035
RWC & DVS info available at theatre

Adv. Tix on Sale THE HAPPENING (R) - ID REQ'D ★
Adv. Tix on Sale THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale KUNG FU PANDA (PG) ★
THE STRANGERS (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (1140 200 420) 750 1005
THE STRANGERS (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (1140 1215 1245 135 235
330 415 500 540) 645 730 830 900 950 1030

SEX AND THE CITY (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (1140 1215 1245 135 235
330 415 500 540) 645 730 830 900 950 1030

INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) ★ (1040)
(Stadium) (1145 1245 115 145 300 400 430 500) 615 715 745 815 930

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (Stadium) (1200)
1230 130 315 345 445) 700 800 1015

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG-13) (Stadium) (1155 220 455) 720 940
SPEED RACER (PG) (Stadium) (1225 320) 620 920
MADE OF HONOR (PG-13) (Stadium) (1135 205 440) 740 1010
IRON MAN (PG-13) (Stadium) (1115 225 530) 640 845 1000

FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10

4110 W Ox Road 800-FANDANGO 670#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale THE HAPPENING (R) - ID REQ'D ★
Adv. Tix on Sale KUNG FU PANDA (PG) ★
SEX AND THE CITY - DP (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 315) 630 945
SEX AND THE CITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 115 155 400 430 505) 715
745 815 1030 1100

SPEED RACER (PG) (1230 345) 655 1000
IRON MAN (PG-13) (105 135 405 435) 705 735 1005 1035
FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13) (120 420) 720 1020
EXPULSED: NO INTELLIGENCE ALLOWED (PG) (145 445) 730 1015
NIM'S ISLAND (PG) (1215 330) 700 940

MANASSAS STADIUM 14

11380 Bulloch Drive 800-FANDANGO 490#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE HAPPENING (R) - ID REQ'D ★
Adv. Tix on Sale THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale KUNG FU PANDA (PG) ★
THE STRANGERS (R) - ID REQ'D (1115 215 515) 800 1045
SEX AND THE CITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1030 1200 1245 130 145 315 400
430) 600 645 730 730 830 930 1000 1030

INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) ★ (1015)
1100 1130 1230 200 230 345 415 500) 630 700 745 815 915 945 1100

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN - DP (PG) (1120 300)
615 950

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (100 445)
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG-13) (1045 115 350)
SPEED RACER (PG) (1210) 330
IRON MAN (PG-13) (1145 245) 715 900 1015
BABY MAMA (PG-13) 740 1010



Experience the Difference.

Advanced Ticketing at MovieWatcher.com

See it first - Tickets on sale now! The Incredible Hulk Opens June 13th

AMC HOFFMAN CENTER 22
Eisenhower Ave and Telegraph Road in Alexandria
703-998-4AMC

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) 12:50, 4:15, 7:50, 11:25

SEX AND THE CITY (R) (10:00, 10:50, 11:40 @ \$6), 12:40, 1:20, 2:10, 3:00, 4:00, 4:40, 5:30, 6:20, 7:20, 8:00, 8:40, 9:40, 10:40, 11:20, 12:00
THE STRANGERS (R) (10:15 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:10, 5:35, 8:05, 10:25
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (10:10, 10:40, 11:20 @ \$6), 12:00, 12:30, 1:10, 1:50, 2:30, 3:20, 3:50, 4:20, 5:10, 5:50, 6:40, 7:10, 7:40, 8:30, 9:10, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:50

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (10:10 @ \$6), 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (10:30, 11:30 @ \$6), 2:10, 2:50, 5:40, 6:15, 9:20, 10:10
SPEED RACER (PG) 12:10, 5:05, 8:20, 11:40
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG13) (10:05 @ \$6), 12:55, 3:30, 6:10, 9:00, 11:45

IRON MAN (PG13) (10:45 @ \$6), 1:00, 1:40, 2:00, 4:10, 4:50, 6:30, 7:15, 8:10, 9:50, 10:35, 11:30
MADE OF HONOR (PG13) 1:55, 4:25, 7:05, 9:30
BABY MAMA (PG13) 2:05, 7:00
HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) (11:00 @ \$6), 4:35, 9:45
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) 1:25, 4:05, 6:50, 9:35

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14
10300 Patuxent Parkway
703-998-4AMC

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) 12:05, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45

SEX AND THE CITY (R) (10:20, 11:25 @ \$6), 12:30, 1:30, 2:35, 3:40, 4:45, 5:45, 6:50, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:10
THE STRANGERS (R) (11:15 @ \$6), 1:35, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (10:50 @ \$6), 1:45, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (10:15, 11:35 @ \$6), 12:25, 1:10, 2:30, 3:25, 4:05, 5:25, 6:20, 7:00, 8:20, 9:15, 9:55, 11:15
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (10:50 @ \$6), 1:45, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (10:10 @ \$6), 1:20, 4:35, 7:50, 11:05
SPEED RACER (PG) 12:45, 3:10, 5:45
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 10:10
IRON MAN (PG13) (11:00 @ \$6), 2:20, 5:15, 6:40, 8:10, 9:35, 11:00
MADE OF HONOR (PG13) (11:45 @ \$6), 4:30, 9:30
BABY MAMA (PG13) 2:10, 7:10

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14
3111 K Street, N.W.
202-342-6441

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) 12:10, 3:25, 6:40, 9:55

SEX AND THE CITY (R) (10:15, 11:00 @ \$6), 12:00, 1:00, 2:10, 3:15, 4:00, 5:10, 6:20, 7:00, 8:10, 9:35, 10:15, 11:10, 12:35
THE STRANGERS (R) (10:25 @ \$6), 12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20, 12:30
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (10:40, 11:20 @ \$6), 12:45, 1:30, 2:30, 3:00, 3:45, 4:25, 5:15, 6:00, 6:45, 7:30, 8:15, 9:00, 9:45, 10:30, 11:15, 12:00
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (10:40 @ \$6), 1:30, 4:25, 7:30, 10:30
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (10:20 @ \$6), 1:20, 4:30, 7:50, 11:00
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG13) (11:30 @ \$6), 2:05, 4:40, 7:10, 10:10, 12:30
IRON MAN (PG13) (10:30 @ \$6), 1:15, 4:20, 7:40, 10:35
MADE OF HONOR (PG13) (11:40 @ \$6), 4:50, 10:00
BABY MAMA (PG13) (11:10 @ \$6), 1:25, 4:05
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) 2:00, 7:20, 12:25

-SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT No passes or discount coupons

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18
2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886
703-998-4262

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (10:15 @ \$6), 1:25, 4:35, 7:55, 11:05

SEX AND THE CITY (R) (10:20 @ \$6), 12:00, 12:45, 1:30, 3:15, 4:00, 4:45, 6:30, 7:15, 8:00, 9:45, 10:30, 11:15
THE STRANGERS (R) (10:05 @ \$6), 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (10:00, 10:35, 11:10, 11:45 @ \$6), 12:20, 1:00, 1:35, 2:10, 2:45, 3:20, 3:55, 4:30, 5:10, 5:45, 6:20, 7:00, 7:30, 8:10, 8:45, 9:20, 10:00, 10:35, 11:10, 11:45
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (10:35 @ \$6), 1:35, 4:30, 7:30, 10:35
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (10:50, 11:25 @ \$6), 2:00, 2:35, 5:20, 5:55, 8:30, 9:10
SPEED RACER (PG) (10:10 @ \$6), 1:20, 4:15
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG13) (11:05 @ \$6), 1:50, 4:25, 7:20, 9:50

IRON MAN (PG13) (10:05, 10:45 @ \$6), 12:10, 1:05, 1:40, 3:10, 4:05, 4:40, 6:10, 7:05, 7:35, 9:15, 10:10, 10:45
MADE OF HONOR (PG13) 7:25, 9:55
BABY MAMA (PG13) (10:40 @ \$6), 1:15, 3:50, 6:40, 9:05, 11:35

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8
Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

SEX AND THE CITY (R) (10:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:10, 4:10, 5:10, 6:20, 7:10, 8:10, 9:20, 10:10, 11:00)

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) 12:10, 1:10, 3:20, 4:20, 6:40, 7:30, 9:45, 10:40
IRON MAN (PG13) 12:50, 2:10, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50, 10:50
MADE OF HONOR (PG13) 12:30, 5:20, 10:00
BABY MAMA (PG13) 2:50, 7:40

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12
800 Shopper's Way, Largo
301-324-4220

SEX AND THE CITY (R) (10:15 @ \$6), 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
THE STRANGERS (R) (10:10 @ \$6), 12:35, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35, 10:00
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (10:30, 11:30 @ \$6), 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:20

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (10:30 @ \$6), 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (11:05 @ \$6), 12:05, 2:35, 3:35, 6:05, 7:00, 9:35, 10:05
SPEED RACER (PG) 12:25, 3:25, 6:25, 9:25
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG13) (11:55 @ \$6), 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55

IRON MAN (PG13) (10:20 @ \$6), 12:20, 1:20, 3:20, 4:20, 6:20, 7:20, 9:20, 10:10
PROM NIGHT (PG13) 4:40, 9:40
TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) (11:40 @ \$6), 2:10, 7:10

LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7
2772 South Randolph
703-671-0910 801

BEFORE THE RAINS (PG13) 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 9:50
THE FALL (R) 1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
SON OF RAMBOW (PG13) 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30
THEN SHE FOUND ME (R) 1:30, 4:10, 7:50, 10:00
ROMAN DE GARE (R) 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:10
THE VISITOR (PG13) 1:40, 3:50, 7:40, 9:55
YOUNG@HEART (PG) 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50

LOEWS UPTOWN 1
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
1-800-FANDANGO #713

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16
7850 Tysons Corner Center
703-998-4262

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (9:50 @ \$6), 1:10, 4:20, 7:40, 10:50

SEX AND THE CITY (R) (9:45, 11:00 @ \$6), 12:10, 1:05, 2:05, 3:20, 4:15, 5:15, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:40, 10:45, 11:45, 12:45
THE STRANGERS (R) (10:15 @ \$6), 12:40, 2:55, 5:20, 8:00, 10:15, 12:35
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (9:30, 10:00, 10:45, 11:30 @ \$6), 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:45, 2:25, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:45, 5:25, 6:00, 6:35, 7:05, 7:35, 8:20, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:40, 11:15, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (11:20 @ \$6), 2:30, 5:45, 8:55, 12:05
SPEED RACER (PG) (10:20 @ \$6), 1:25
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG13) (9:35 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:25, 5:55, 8:25, 10:55

IRON MAN (PG13) (10:10, 11:40 @ \$6), 1:15, 2:40, 4:05, 5:40, 7:10, 8:35, 10:05, 11:35, 12:55
IRON MAN (PG13) (11:40 @ \$6), 2:40, 5:40, 8:35, 11:35
MADE OF HONOR (PG13) 4:30, 7:00, 9:35, 12:05
BABY MAMA (PG13) (9:55 @ \$6), 12:20, 2:45, 5:05
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) 7:25, 10:10, 12:55

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE
Jenifer and Wisconsin
202-537-9553

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

IRON MAN (PG13) (11:00 @ \$6), 1:45, 4:40, 7:40, 10:25

SEX AND THE CITY (R) (10:00 @ \$6), 12:15, 1:00, 3:30, 4:00, 6:45, 7:15, 10:00, 10:30
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (10:30 @ \$6), 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (11:40 @ \$6), 2:50, 6:30, 9:30
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG13) (11:30 @ \$6), 2:00, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
BABY MAMA (PG13) 12:35, 3:00, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20

LOEWS RIO CINEMAS 18
9811 Washington Boulevard
301-948-0906

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) 12:10, 3:20, 6:40, 9:50

SEX AND THE CITY (R) (10:15, 11:30 @ \$6), 12:45, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 4:45, 6:00, 7:15, 8:00, 9:15, 10:20, 11:15
THE STRANGERS (R) (11:00 @ \$6), 1:10, 3:25, 5:45, 8:10, 10:25
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (10:00, 10:40, 11:20 @ \$6), 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:40, 2:20, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:40, 5:20, 5:55, 6:30, 7:00, 7:40, 8:20, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:40, 11:10
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (10:40 @ \$6), 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (10:05, 11:10 @ \$6), 1:15, 2:30, 4:25, 5:40, 7:35, 8:50, 10:45
SPEED RACER (PG) (10:10 @ \$6), 1:05, 4:05
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG13) (11:35 @ \$6), 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55

IRON MAN (PG13) (11:15 @ \$6), 1:20, 2:15, 4:10, 5:10, 7:05, 8:05, 10:05, 10:55
MADE OF HONOR (PG13) 7:10, 9:40
BABY MAMA (PG13) 2:40, 7:30
HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) 12:15, 5:15, 9:45
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) (11:25 @ \$6), 2:10, 4:55, 7:55, 10:35

LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5
North Bethesda
1-800-FANDANGO #741

SEX AND THE CITY (R) (11:40 @ \$5), 3:00, 6:45, 9:45
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) (11:15 @ \$5), 2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:20
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) 12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 9:35
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG13) (11:20 @ \$5), 1:50, 4:20, 7:15, 9:40
IRON MAN (PG13) (11:00 @ \$5), 1:55, 4:35, 7:25, 10:10

Times for Friday, May 30, 2008

express movie showtimes

MARYLAND

ACADEMY STADIUM THEATRES at Beltway Plaza

www.Academy8theaters.com
Beltway Exit 23, W. on Greenbelt Rd.
301-220-1155
(!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket
Friday-Thursday: Shows starting between 12 noon- 5 pm: Adults \$6.50, Child \$6.00
Saturday: ALL SHOWS STARTING BEFORE 12 NOON ARE \$5.00

LOWEST PRICES IN THE METRO AREA! NEW STADIUM SEATING/FREE PARKING

SPEED RACER (PG) 11:00, 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
IRON MAN (PG-13) 11:30, 12:00, 2:10, 2:40, 5:00, 5:25, 7:45, 8:10, 10:30
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00)
THE STRANGERS (R) (11:00, 11:30, 1:45, 2:20, 4:30, 5:05, 7:15, 7:50, 10:00, 10:30)
THE STRANGERS (R) (11:40, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45)
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG-13) 11:30, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

MARLOW 6 THEATRES
Temple Hills, Md. 301-316-1031
Showtimes Mon-Thur 2pm onwards till 8pm start shows
Last shows Sunday 8pm
Showtimes may change without notice
Friday & Saturday Schedule

IRON MAN (PG-13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
THE STRANGERS (R) 12:15, 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:10
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG-13) 12:10, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00
MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) 12:30, 5:25, 10:25
SPEED RACER (PG) 2:40, 7:40
PROM NIGHT (PG-13) 2:25, 6:45, 11:00
STREET KINGS (R) 12:05, 4:25, 8:45

P&G WESTFIELD MONTGOMERY
7101 Democracy Blvd, Beth 301-767-9555
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM!

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG-13) 12:00, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 9:55
SEX AND THE CITY (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55

BETHESDA ROW
7235 Woodmont Ave • (301) 652-7273
Moviephone (301 or 202) 333-3456 #805
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM

YOUNG @ HEART (PG) 4:30, 9:15
COUNTERFEITERS (R) 2:05, 6:55
THE VISITOR (PG-13) 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:15
THEN SHE FOUND ME (R) 2:10, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30
BEFORE THE RAINS (PG-13) 2:35, 4:55, 7:30, 9:50
REPRISE (R) 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:35
THE FALL (R) 1:45, 4:25, 7:00, 9:55
PRICELESS (PG-13) 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40
SON OF RAMBOW (PG-13) 1:40, 4:00, 6:50, 9:10

LAUREL CINEMA 6
LAUREL SHOPPING CENTER RT. 1
301-604-2885
SHOWS BEFORE 6PM \$5.00

THE STRANGERS (R) 3:15, 5:20, 7:15, 9:35
SEX AND THE CITY (R) 4:05, 7:00, 9:50
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG-13) 4:20, 7:10, 9:45
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) 4:00, 6:50, 9:40
INDIAN FILM-Separate Admission
ADULT \$8 / CHILD \$5
JANNAT - Fri: 5 & 9 pm
HASTEY HASTEY - Fri 4:15, 7 & 9:30 pm

P&G OLD GREENBELT
301-474-9744
40 ft. Screen
At intersection of Crescent & Southway
All shows before 6:00pm are \$6.00

SEX AND THE CITY (R) 4:30, 7:20, 9:55

VIRGINIA

CINEMA ARTS THEATRE
9650 Main St., Fairfax 703-978-6991
www.cinemaartstheatre.com

SEX AND THE CITY (R) 9:45, 10:30, 12:45, 1:30, 3:45, 4:30, 7:10, 8:00, 10:00
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG-13) 9:40, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) 10:10, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50
THE VISITOR (PG-13) 10:05, 12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:20, 9:25
THEN SHE FOUND ME (R) 9:55, 12:10, 2:35, 7:40, 9:45
SON OF RAMBOW (PG-13) 4:55

ALEXANDRIA www.oldtowntheater.com
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INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG-13) 5:00, 7:30, 9:55
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) 4:30, 7:00, 9:40

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SURFWISE (R) 2:30, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10
BEFORE THE RAINS (PG-13) 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
ROMAN DE GARE (R) 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35
THE FALL (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
THEN SHE FOUND ME (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
THE VISITOR (PG-13) 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
OSS 117, CAIRO NEST OF SPIES (NR) 1:50, 7:30
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (R) 4:10, 9:55
SON OF RAMBOW (PG-13) 2:25, 4:55, 7:35, 10:05

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*SEX AND THE CITY (R) 12:10, 3:15, 6:15, 9:20
*THE STRANGERS (R) 11:55, 2:40, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35
*INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG-13) 12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 4:05, 6:05, 7:00, 9:15, 10:00
*CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
*SPEED RACER (PG) 12:05, 3:10
*WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG-13) 7:25, 9:40
IRON MAN (PG-13) 12:25, 3:20, 6:40, 9:45
BABY MAMA (PG-13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50

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 - Arrange travel plans and itineraries

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 - Consistent work history
 - Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Internet research
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EOE

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- Ensuring a high degree of customer satisfaction by quality on-time performance
- Review and submission of all proposals submitted in response to Department of State RFP(task orders).
- Provides status to upper management of operations and approaches on solution to problems of the operations.
- Responsible for growing existing business within the AFRICAP Program and developing new business in Africa.
- Ensures compliance with company policies and procedures and other practices set forth by upper management directives.
- Responsible for DI AFRICAP Program Operations, Logistics, Plans, Contracts, Human Resources, Finance, Management Information Systems, and Quality Assurance.
- Responsible for all AFRICAP Program monetary resources and ensures compliance with DI budget requirements and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).
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Required: A research-oriented doctoral degree in a discipline associated with health services research (e.g., epidemiology, economics, sociology, health policy and management, etc.) and a demonstrated capability to design, conduct/ manage, and report on population-based research using data from a variety of sources (e.g., claims data survey data, etc.). **OR** a masters degree in a discipline associated with health services research (as described above) and at least five years' experience in a position with a record of successfully designing, conducting/managing, and reporting on population-based research using data from a variety of sources (e.g., claims data, survey data, etc.). Additionally, experience in designing study (research and evaluation) protocols, supervising field work, managing and manipulating large databases, performing appropriate analyses, and preparing and presenting reports is essential. Experience managing and manipulating large databases, advanced SAS or SPSS programming skills and spreadsheet capabilities, competence in statistical analysis, and excellent writing and communication skills are essential.

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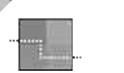
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Sat May 31st 301-627-7630

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Potomac—HUGE YARD SALE! Quality items. NO JUNK! Must see to believe! 10 Quelway Court, North Potomac, MD. 8a-4p. May 31, 2008.

Rosehill—4613 Cottonwood Pl., Alexandria, VA 22310 5/31-6/01. Huge Sale. great stuff!

Shepherd Park—50+ sales throughout, 5/31-6/1 9-3. N of Walter Reed btwn Rock Creek Pk & Georgia. List of sales at shepherdpark.org

Silver Spring—Furniture, clothes, tools ... 9918 Sutherland Road, Silver Spring, MD, 240-372-3735

Silver Spring—4313 Ivy Glen Rd, SAT 5/31, 9to3, Home decor, Nat'l Geographic books, videos, puzzles; Sci-Fi cards/figures; clothing; household items; furniture & MORE!

Springfield—Big Moving Sale! Sat, May 31, 8-12, 8414 Gambrell Ln, 703-455-0338. No early birds pls.

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DOG ADOPTION EVENT—Homeward Trails, Pet-MAC, 4220 Fessenden St. NW, WDC Sun. June 1, 12-2pm. www.homewardtrails.org

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LOOK out K

* TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

Culture

Campaign tunes can send mixed messages about candidates

Let's say it's the early 1980s, and you're a rising young musician named John Cougar Mellencamp. You cut a song with a chorus that oozes Jeffersonian democracy and adds a touch of postwar suburban placidity. "Ain't that America — for you and me," you sing in your gravelly Indiana voice. "Ain't that America: Home of the free. Little pink houses for you and me."

Now let's say you're a strategist for Arizona Sen. John McCain, a Republican candidate for president in 2008. You hear "Pink Houses" 25 years after it was recorded and think to yourself, "This is perfect. Let's blast this out at the big guy's rallies and hitch our wagon to Mellencamp's imagery."

That scenario proved problematic when it unfolded earlier this year. First, Mellencamp is a Demo-

crat and activist who has supported John Edwards. He didn't like his work being co-opted and asked McCain to stop. Second, and just as important, "Pink Houses" is an edgy, melancholy song about chances lost and potential wasted.

For a person coveting the White House, that's not quite on point.

In the 21st century, music and politics exist at an intersection as volatile as the lonely crossroads in Mississippi where bluesman Robert

Politics of Pop

Johnson supposedly bartered his soul for guitar prowess. And let's not pick on McCain; he's but one victim — or perpetrator — of this music minefield.

For a generation, candidates who have tried to dip their toes into the pop-culture ocean have tended to fall in. "Happy Days Are Here Again" may have worked for FDR in 1932,

but ever since Reagan asserted in 1984 that Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA" was a patriotic paean, Democrats and Republicans alike have revealed tin ears as they try to set the mood and show that they, too, are regular people attuned to the same entertainment as their fellow Americans. In doing so, they offer glimpses into the national temper-

ament.

"Interesting thing about campaign songs: They mirror the life of America. It's as if we're taking snapshots," says Oscar Brand, an 88-year-old musician who recorded an album of campaign music ranging from the eras of George Washington to Bill Clinton.

Often, the songs are played in

fragments, as attempts to capture a mood rather than convey a message. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., has used pieces of Tom Petty's "American Girl" and Mellencamp's "Small Town" to convey the basic imagery of their titles; at a recent rally in a Pittsburgh suburb, her husband came onstage to the Police's "Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic." The other lyrics didn't much matter.

"These songs are a quick and easy substitute to establish a connection between candidates and voters," says Sean Wilentz, a presidential historian and scholar of American musical traditions. TED ANTHONY (AP)

INSIDE

Suri's dad gets his own Web site | 42



Blog Log: Thoughts on George Clooney | 40

Discussion: 'Sex and the City' chatter | 40



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP/FILE

BAD NOTE: Sen. John McCain played John Cougar Mellencamp's "Pink Houses" at rallies until the singer asked him to stop.

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ENTERTAINMENT

At World's End

Margie Wienk, frontwoman for the folk-rock collective Fern Knight, looks like she'd be happy living in the woods of some mythical land — which Philadelphia might be, to some people. Johnathan Rickman spoke to Wienk, whose band plays at the Velvet Lounge on Friday. | ONLINE NOW



MUSIC

Sassing Back

Be Your Own Pet is a band of teens whose bratty songs recall the days when rock music could still worry parents. Stephen M. Deusner talked with drummer John Eatherly about BYOP, which plays at the 9:30 Club on Friday, and the controversy over the band's new CD. | ONLINE NOW

FILM

The Future Was Now

"This is a story about the future ... but not the very distant future," intones the narrator of the 1954 film "Tobor the Great." Stephen M. Deusner reviews the new DVD issue of this movie, which came out 15 years before man walked on the moon. | ONLINE NOW



comment board

“Yes and no. The guy could've said something while he was spoon-feeding crap to us all, as opposed to afterward."

COMMENTER WAS BUF., NOW WAS., WHO ADDED, "EXACTLY HOW RISQUE IS IT RIGHT NOW TO CRITICIZE THE LEAST-LIKED PRESIDENT OF ALL TIME?"

“I don't doubt that his allegations are credible, but I also don't doubt that he's trying to spin his own grievances in order to get more attention [and] sell more books."

COMMENTER CHRIS, WHO ADDED, "POLITICS IS A ROUGH BUSINESS, AND BOTH SIDES ARE TOUGH ON THOSE WHO DON'T PLAY BALL."



“Of course he's credible. What's frustrating about this is that [he] intentionally waited until things had gone to hell in a handbasket before [he] came out and cleared [his] conscience."

COMMENTER MILDLY MISANTHROPIC, RESPONDING TO THURSDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "DO YOU CONSIDER SCOTT MCCLELLAN A CREDIBLE CRITIC OF THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION?"

poll center

DO YOU CONSIDER SCOTT MCCLELLAN A CREDIBLE CRITIC OF THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION?

70% YES
30% NO

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT [READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP](http://readexpress.com/pollcenter.php)

Blog LOG

"One of the best things about secretarial work is answering the telephone. This is odd, since I hate to talk on the phone in my personal life."

SHANNONSTAMEY.BLOGSPOT.COM DOESN'T MIND GETTING PAID TO TALK ON THE PHONE, ADDING, "I USUALLY WEAR MY FRIENDS DOWN WITH TEXT MESSAGES INSTEAD."



JONATHAN NEWTON/TPP

“There is no excuse to either sit [Jesus Flores] as a backup or option [him] to the minors. He is not the future, he is the now."

DCPROSPORTSREPORT.COM IS A BELIEVER IN THE WASHINGTON NATIONALS CATCHER, AFTER FLORES HIT HIS FIRST CAREER GRAND SLAM IN A 6-4 WIN OVER SAN DIEGO WEDNESDAY NIGHT.



“I HAVE A SOFT SPOT for people who videotape something directly off of their TV or computer screen and post it on YouTube. It truly says something about their devotion."

FOODNETWORKADDICT.BLOGSPOT.COM DECIDED TO MAKE HER OWN MADE-FOR-YOUTUBE COMPILATION OF HER FAVORITE COOKING SHOWS.

“IF YOU HAD TOLD ME, as a child, that someday I would be posting on a blog about the dirty comedy of Bob Saget, beloved father on the '80s show 'Full House' — well, I probably wouldn't have been that shocked."

JCNEMECK.COM IS GOING TO SEE THE OFF-COLOR COMEDIAN ON HIS "R-RATED TOUR" ON JUNE 6 AT THE WARNER THEATRE.

“YES ... IT'S TRUE. George Clooney has finally seen the error of his ways and has dumped little what's-her-name. And, really, while I don't get how this makes headlines, I applaud his decision, because now he's free for me!"

MUSINGSOFACHICK.BLOGSPOT.COM HAS BEEN WAITING A YEAR FOR THE SUPERSTAR ACTOR TO BREAK UP WITH SARAH LARSON.

Discussions

'Sex and the City'

With only hours to go until the premiere of "Sex and the City: The Movie," style section staff writer **JENNIFER FREY** was online Thursday to share her thoughts about the much-anticipated film.

I'm a middle-aged woman who faithfully watched the TV show but always felt a little guilty doing so. Kind of like reading "Cosmopolitan" magazine. I didn't want my kids to see it.

No guilt! No guilt! Carrie et al would hate the guilt. That said,

definitely don't take the kids to see the film!

Not to be a killjoy, but isn't all this flashy fashion we see in "Sex and the City: The Movie" just way out of touch? I mean, isn't the look a lot more subtle today? Does anyone dress like this anymore?

For me, a part of it is seeing people who actually wear those clothes we see coming down the runway during Fashion Week and in the pages of Vogue. I don't know anyone who wears birds on her head like Carrie does, but, hey, it's fun to see.

I am taking my husband, who has seen every episode at least twice, courtesy of my box set. Is this as

pathetic as it sounds to me?

This is not pathetic. A man who can quote the show and knows all the references is lovely. Think of him as your own Stanford Blatch. OK, maybe not. That might be pushing hubby a little too far.

I watched the trailer for the movie, and it was 98 percent Carrie. Will this movie be a vanity project with her?

Without spoiling plot lines, my own major complaint with the film was that it was too Carrie-centric.

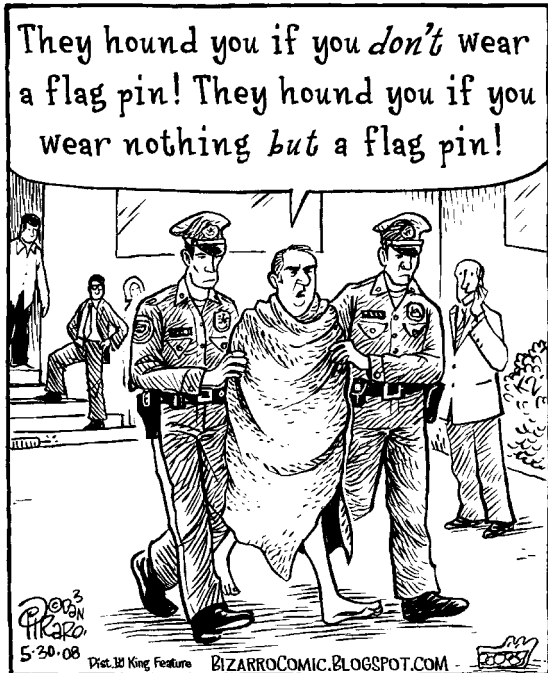
TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS: Former White House press secretary Scott McClellan discusses his new book, "What Happened," at noon | washingtonpost.com/discussions.

DO

GO WATCH D.C. HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL. The inaugural Congressional Bank Baseball Classic will be held Saturday at Nationals Park. St. Albans faces Maret in the first semifinal, at 9:30 a.m., and then Wilson faces McKinley at 12:30 p.m. The All-Star Game follows at 3:30 p.m., with the final at 7 p.m.

LOOK out

Bizarro | Dan Piraro



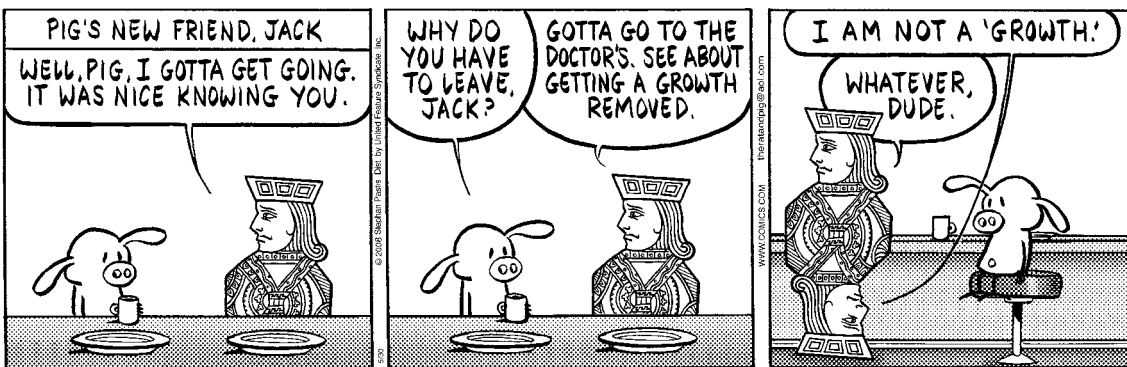
Cornered | Mike Baldwin



Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Take advantage of the position you're in, and you should be able to ensure your lasting success.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You can keep boredom at bay simply by focusing on details and keeping yourself in shape and ready for action as required.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You're likely to get better results—and quicker, too—than you had bargained for at this time. Today brings a surprise development.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Even though you may be playing only a supporting role, you'll find that your input and influence are, in fact, essential.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Express your feelings openly and honestly—but only at the right times. You may, now and then, feel the need to clam up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) This is a good day for focusing on those issues that affect you most prominently at home. A question of lifestyle may arise by

day's end.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) What appears before you in a form quite unlike its real self is worthy of your close attention. Solve this mystery, and success is yours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You can take advantage of someone else's specialty and come out ahead—provided, of course, that you're willing to share your gains.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You may come in contact with someone who shares your overall beliefs but who differs fundamentally in his or her methods and practical approach.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You may not have a chance in the near future to repeat what you can accomplish, so you're surely going to have to make it count.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A mystery is solved, and you'll find yourself working for someone who may have been considered a rival in days or weeks past.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Embrace the simple things around you, and don't insist on having more than is available to you at this time. Be content with less.



A crowd watches the dedication ceremony of the Lincoln Memorial in 1922.

Today in History

1911 Indianapolis sees its first long-distance auto race; Ray Harroun is the winner.

1922 The Lincoln Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C., by President Harding, Chief Justice William Howard Taft and Robert Todd Lincoln.

1958 Unidentified American service members killed in World War II and the Korean War are interred in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

1431 Joan of Arc, condemned as a heretic, is burned at the stake in Rouen, France.

1854 The territories of Nebraska and Kansas are established.

1883 Twelve people are trampled to death when a rumor that the recently opened Brooklyn Bridge was in imminent danger of collapsing triggered a stampede.

LOOK out People

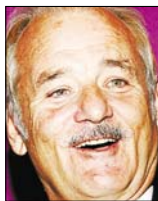


That woman on the left has great hair.

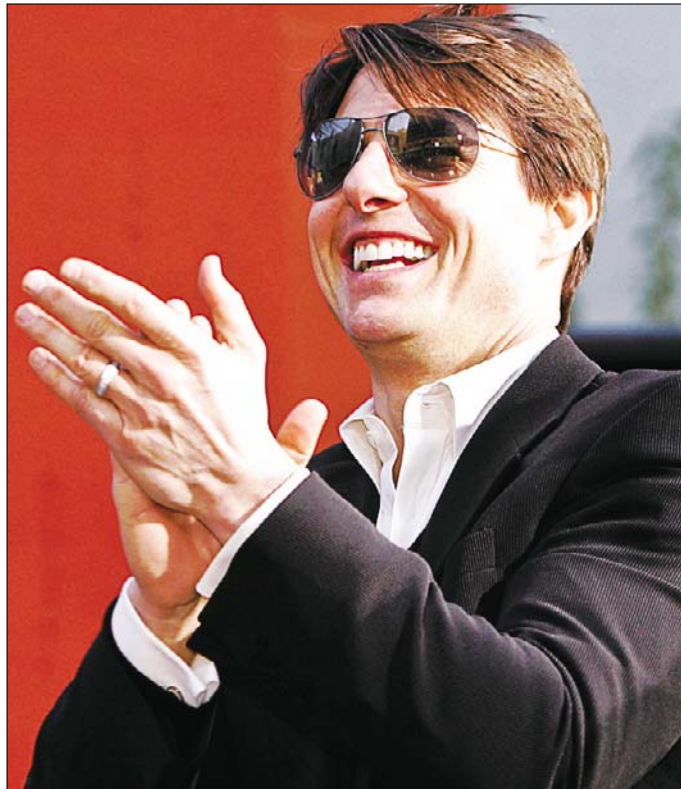
HEALTH Violent Rage Effective Against the Aging Process

NAOMI CAMPBELL has been charged with assaulting two police officers during an alleged luggage rage incident at Heathrow Airport. The supermodel, 38, was ordered to appear at a west London magistrates court June 20. (AP)

LESSONS People Who Appear Jolly May Not Actually Be So



The wife of **BILL MURRAY** has filed for divorce after nearly 11 years of marriage, alleging he abused her and is addicted to marijuana and alcohol. Jennifer Butler Murray filed divorce papers in Charleston County, S.C. (AP)



NICK UTIAP

SELF-INVOLVEMENT

I Love You, Me

TOM CRUISE has launched a Web site devoted to himself: Tomcruise.com. Among the features are a "message from Tom," a glowing biography and handsome photographs. The actor explains: "I created this site as a thank you, to you, for sharing the journey with me and to invite you to continue to explore what the future will bring." (AP)

SAD Terrorism Affects Iced-Coffee Industry

Dunkin' Donuts has pulled an online ad featuring **RACHAEL RAY** after complaints that a fringed scarf that the chef wore in the ad offers symbolic support for Muslim extremism and terrorism. The chain said the ad, which first appeared May 7, was pulled over the past weekend because



The scary part of this photo isn't the scarf.

"the possibility of misperception detracted from its original intention to promote our iced coffee." Critics complained that the scarf looked like a keffiyeh, the traditional Arab headdress, and that such scarves have come to symbolize Muslim extremism and terrorism. (AP)

SINISTER Nostalgia Casting Slowly Destroying the Art World

MELISSA GILBERT is returning to "Little House on the Prairie" — this time playing the mother of the character she played on the popular television series. Gilbert, 44, will play "Ma" Ingalls in a musical ver-



Pete was content in Ashlee's shadow.

sion of the "Little House" books that will open at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis this summer. The actress portrayed Laura in the 1970s series that starred Michael Landon. (AP)

UNFAIR Childless Women Silently Curse Star's Fertility

Newlyweds **ASHLEE SIMPSON-WENTZ** and **PETE WENTZ** have made it official: Yes, they're expecting a baby. "We wanted to wait until after the first trimester to officially confirm that we are expecting our first child," they said on Wentz's blog. (AP)

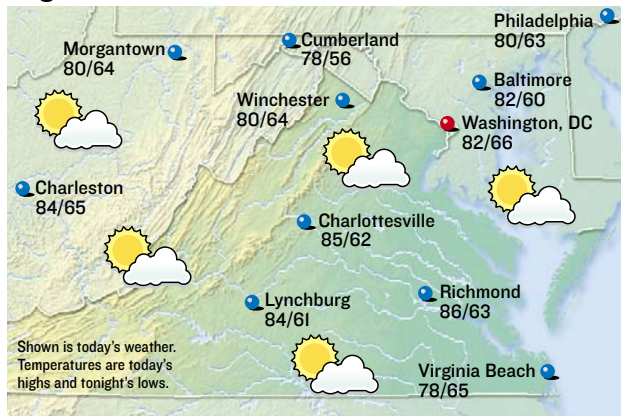


Pete was content in Ashlee's shadow.

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Mostly sunny	Increasingly cloudy, warm	Mostly cloudy, heavy t-storms	Partly sunny, a t-storm possible	Partly sunny	Partly sunny
82°	66°	84° / 63°	82° / 61°	80° / 64°	80° / 66°

Regional Weather



Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.
Temperature
 High 76°
 Low 53°
 Normal high 79°
 Normal low 60°
 Average humidity 49%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m. 0.00"
 Month to date 9.21"
 Normal month to date 3.58"
 Year to date 22.47"
 Last year to date 13.79"
 Normal year to date 15.90"

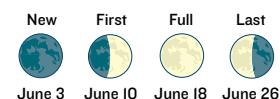
For up-to-the-minute weather, see: [washingtonpost.com/weather](http://www.washingtonpost.com/weather)

Regional Forecast

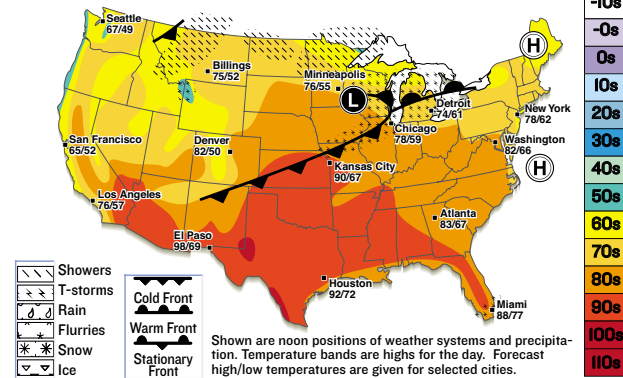
D.C. Metro: Today, mostly sunny. High 82. Wind south 7-14 mph. Tonight, increasingly cloudy, warm. Low 66. Wind south 10-20 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 5:45 a.m.
 Sunset tonight 8:26 p.m.
 Moonrise today 2:35 a.m.
 Moonset today 3:48 p.m.



National Weather for Friday, May 30



National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	83/67/s	88/68/pc
Boston	73/56/pc	73/58/t
Chicago	78/59/t	76/52/pc
Dallas	93/72/s	92/73/s
Denver	82/50/pc	83/51/pc
Honolulu	87/74/s	87/74/s
Los Angeles	76/57/s	76/57/pc
Miami	88/77/t	88/77/t
New York City	78/62/s	77/63/t
Orlando	89/71/pc	93/71/pc
Seattle	67/49/pc	69/50/pc

World Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Amsterdam	72/52/sh	64/52/r
Athens	81/68/s	85/69/s
Berlin	84/70/s	88/68/s
Buenos Aires	54/39/s	55/41/pc
Calgary	69/43/pc	69/44/pc
Dublin	63/48/r	63/50/r
Geneva	71/58/r	73/56/sh
Moscow	61/43/sh	55/37/pc
Rome	72/55/sh	76/57/pc
Sydney	68/54/s	64/52/pc
Tokyo	66/60/sh	73/64/r

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



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Meat Cute:
Chef Mario
Batali dishes
on the thrill of
the grill | **E2**

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face time

■ **Emeril. Rachael. Martha.** There's a short list of one-name wonders in the foodie world, and chef, restaurateur and pasta king Mario — as in Batali — tops it. The force behind New York hot spots like Babbo and Del Posto has a new cookbook, "Mario Batali Italian Grill" (\$30, Ecco), which suggests throwing radicchio, duck and even pizza on the barbie.

What can't you throw on a grill?

Caviar ... though, actually, I've seen them grill it before. And there are lots of things a grill can't improve, like dessert.

What do you think is the most surprising recipe in the book?

If people aren't used to spit toasting, they'll be surprised by that. And there's a lot of stuff that people won't expect, like focaccia or mussels. And pizza ... while I don't think doing it on the grill is well-known to people on the East Coast, I think others may find it surprising.

Which recipes will you be making for your family this summer?

My kids love the pizza or the robiola [soft Italian cheese] wrapped in mortadella [an Italian cold cut].

Who are the better grillers — Italians or Americans?

It depends on if you mean grilling or barbecue, which is pretty much grilling over hot coals. In America, barbecue has become a complex art form.

Which Italian ingredients elevate food cooked over an open fire?

Vin cotto [cooked wine syrup] is nice. It's sweet and is a great complement for almost anything off the grill. Bottarga [dried fish roe] has a nice flavor that's not overpowering. It can also be a substitute for salt.

In the book, you stress that Italian grilling is simple but requires top-notch basics. Like what?

Interesting French salt, red wine vinegar or maybe a little prosciutto.



MELANIE ODINEAU

Mario Batali

CHEF, RESTAURANT OWNER, PIZZA GRILLER

If there's nothing to mask, the food is tastier, especially since grilling is so simple.

What kind of grill do you use?

I have a gas grill and a version of the Green Egg by Viking. I also have a wood-burning oven. But for me, the most important thing is that I don't run out of heat. As much as I like a briquet fire, if I would choose

one method, I'd say a hardwood fire you could put over a fire pit.

Are there any barbecue tools that are vital?

Well, I like to use tongs so I don't burn my hands! But there's also this thing called a piastra (\$50, Italiankitchen.com) that we use. It's a granite flat griddle, and it's pretty cool.

'By the grill, an apron might be apropos, especially if a little sauce falls.'

Any wardrobe dos or don'ts when you're cooking over a flame?

I wear the same clothes to every event — short pants and a button-up shirt. But by the grill, an apron might be apropos, especially to protect you if a little sauce falls or something.

What's your secret to a backyard summer bash?

Do everything that you can in advance, and then just do the last-minute things when your guests are there. Having people over and then spending three hours doing a Thomas Keller recipe isn't entertaining. Get it to the point where you can have a cocktail, play Frisbee, and then the food is almost done.

JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

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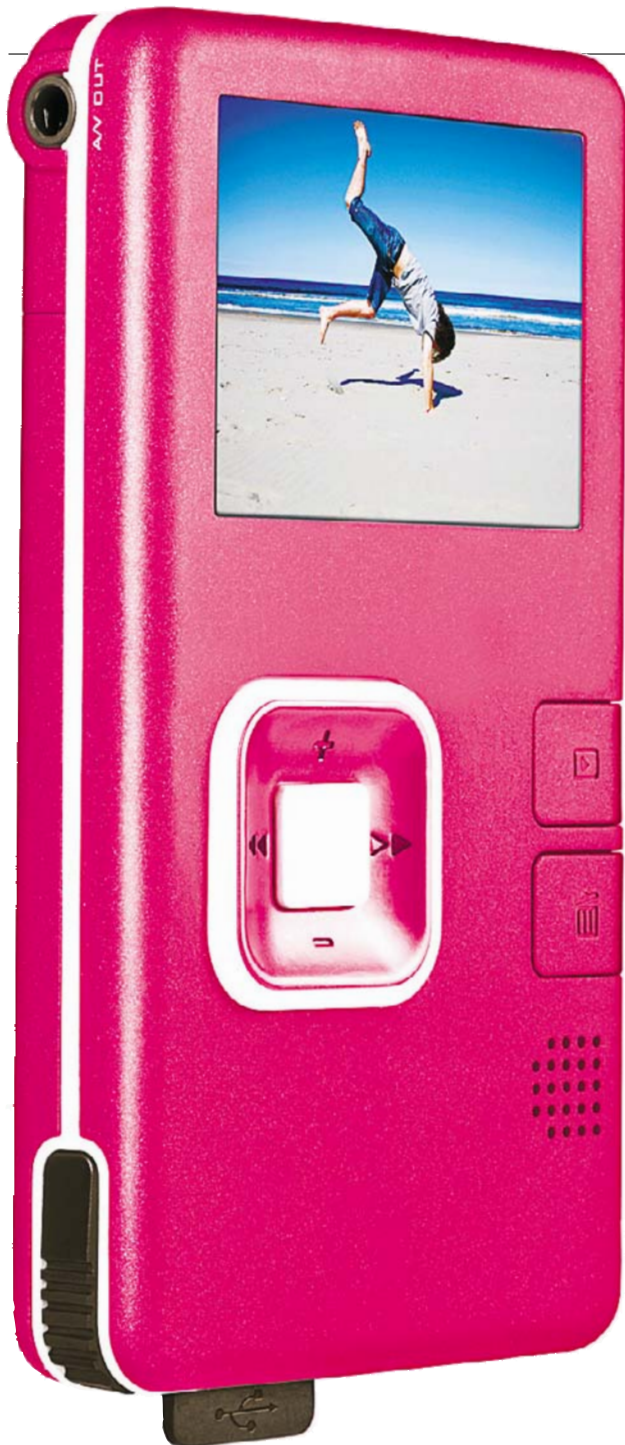
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3 Always the Bright Time

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTION: A clock on the wall reminds you A) I'm running late for work again; B) This mortal toil will soon be over; C) Drat, I'm missing "Farmer Wants a Wife"! But if your wall timepiece is attractive and colorful, like Lemnos' round tickers (\$46, Tabletop, 1608 20th St. NW; 202-387-7117), perhaps time will be on your side, not just an annoying measurement of your failures.



Camera-Ready

YOU COULD SHOOT lame little videos with your cell phone. Or you could record up to two hours of pretty decent-quality footage with Creative Labs' new VADO (in pink and silver, \$90-\$92, Amazon.com), then plug it into your computer's USB drive, from whence it'll upload and charge at the same time. Now you'll be prepared to cover sudden news events, make impromptu indie films, or keep a pretentious online video diary. We're talking to you, bloggers.



Grab Bag

Handles With Care 2

IT LOOKS LIKE a trussed-up turkey when lying flat; it's the twin of a flak jacket when worn. Or maybe it's a jet pack for hipsters. Built NY's neoprene laptop backpack (in black, green and woodgrain, \$80, Builtny.com) may look odd, but it cradles computers as securely as an infant carrier (which it also resembles) lugs babies. Which your laptop is, to you. Two pockets hold chargers and other necessities, and laptops from 12"-17" will fit.

Posies, Preserved 4

SEEDS, PODS AND BUDS gathered in Rock Creek Park go punky and pretty when Kensington's Lynda Andrews-Barry casts them in sterling and electroformed copper. Her Herban Elements line — think crepe myrtle buds as earrings and a purple coneflower ring (shown, \$248, both at Herbanelements.etsy.com) — amounts to floral arrangements that last longer and look tougher than anything in a vase.



Zoom in on Wrinkles 5

HDTV MAKES CABLE PUNDITS look scaly and about 150 years old. Borba's HD-Illuminating Plasma Crystals Diamond-Dermabrasion Peel Treatment (\$59, Borba.com), an exfoliating/brightening system consisting of a rice powder/"micro diamond" scrub and a mild acid solution, leaves skin ready for close-ups.



dear manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOEBLOGGER

I've just been hired by a firm that specializes in "green design," and now I'm looking for a fabulous pair of shoes that won't have my co-workers denouncing me in office meetings. — MARTA

■ Manolo says, every revolution has its Jacobins, and while the Manolo is all in favor of taking care of the environment, he is more than the little suspicious of those committed fanatics who would crush our individuality under their free-range, all-natural,



hemp and raffia jackboots. If you were to listen to them and be as strict as possible, you would have to give up the made-from-animals leather, the made-from-oil plastics, the made-from-rainforest rubber and the non-organically grown cotton and flax. All you would have to wear would be shoes made from reeds that you had gathered yourself from along the riverbanks near your cave.

But you do not look good in bulrushes and cattails, and so you begin to compromise, and next thing you know, you're wearing thigh-high pirate boots fashioned by Chinese prisoners from the skins of pandas and civet cats.

There must be the happy medium, yes? Look, here are the cute and eco-friendly Baldaci ballerina flat from Timberland (\$84, Zappos.com), made from the soft suede, environmentally raw materials and recycled yarns.

COLUMN FROM FEB. 15, 2008.

MANOLO WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK.

@ Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

ON THE COVER

To max out a mini apartment with tips from designers, see page E4.

Big [Small Space] Style

It's a com-
apartmen-
Krista Vo-
who lives
than 300 s-
kitchen) n-
space. "T-
to make t-
Obama s-
To help h-
that are b-
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1 Cristina DePina

Interior designer, CDM & Associates,
Alexandria; Cdmassociates.com

"Pieces from Krista's travels — rugs, a little trunk — made me think her apartment should be global modern," says Alexandria designer Cristina DePina, who moved Vogt's queen-size bed to the right-side wall, pushing her oversize red sofa against the apartment's longest wall (out of view in this sketch). A console table at the foot of the bed can serve as a buffet at parties. Two Moroccan-style stools from Target (just out of view by the sofa) do double duty as cocktail tables and foot rests. That big TV? "I put it on casters, so she can pull it over to watch it in bed or pull it in front of the sofa during big games," says DePina.

Like many decor divas, DePina stuck with a limited color palette so it wouldn't overwhelm the small space. It includes a few coats of a soothing gray paint, in theory applied by Vogt's boyfriend in exchange for pizza and beer. And she put up a set of mirrors on the wall over the bed, the better to reflect the light from Vogt's one window, a truly bright — and space-expanding — idea.

Room Breakdown

- 3-piece wall-mirror set, Linensandthings.com: **\$79.99**
- Sherwin-Williams Gray Matters paint: **\$49.98**
- Duvet set, Linensandthings.com: **\$79.99**
- Console table, Target: **\$139.99**
- Brushes, Home Depot: **\$9.99**
- Pizza and beer: **\$37.97**
- Stools, Target: **\$145.99**
- Lack wall shelf, Ikea: **\$29.99**
- Dolce desk, Target: **\$99.99**
- 2 Riba frames, Ikea: **\$25.98**
- 1 electrician (1 hour): **\$85**
- Chandelier, Lightinguniverse.com: **\$172.80**
- Casters, Home Depot: **\$3.99**
- 1 table lamp, Target: **\$39.99**

TOTAL: \$1,001.64



2 Taniya Nayak

Star of HGTV's "Designed to Sell" and
interior designer, Design Digs; Designdigs.net

Nayak, used to summoning up eye-catching rooms on a weensy budget for HGTV's "Designed to Sell," painted Vogt's entire room a chocolatey brown. "It's a misconception that you can't use dark colors in a small space," she says. Rich tones can actually warm up a room and make it look larger. She stuck with just a few colors — cream, brown and red — so "it wasn't over-the-top vibrant" — which might make cramped quarters feel even snuggier.

Nayak also upped Vogt's storage via a pair of Ikea's popular Billy wall bookcases. "They made the wall have a purpose, instead of being dead space," says Nayak. A console table covers the unsightly radiator, and a sleek Ikea sofa bed takes the place of Vogt's queen-size bed, freeing up floor space — and a spot to show off a rug picked up via her globe-trotting job. "I think there's more flow now," says Nayak. "And if she wants to throw a party, she should encourage people to spend time on the balcony just outside the door."

Room Breakdown

- Beddings Lovas sofa bed, Ikea: **\$349**
- Knappa Pendant light, Elm: **\$24.99**
- Billy wall shelves, Ikea:
- Chunky console table, Elm: **\$299**
- Overlapping squares m, West Elm: **\$99**
- Bi-color window panel, Ivory/Espresso, West Elm: **\$59**
- 2 gallons Benjamin Moore paint in Saddle Soap: **\$**

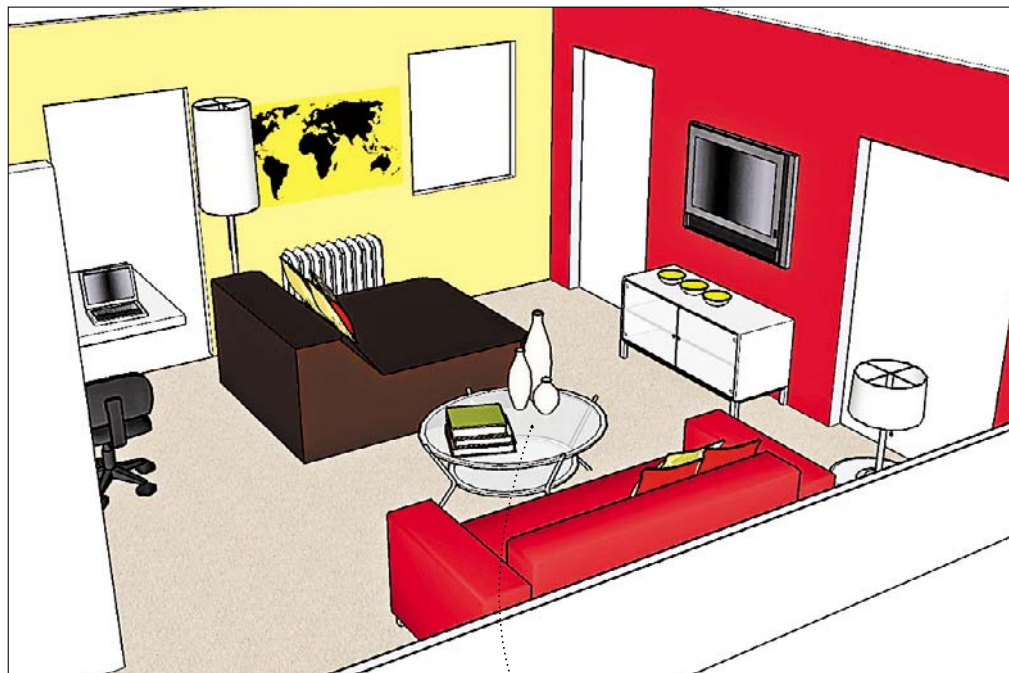
TOTAL: \$990.99

home | **Styles**

non city dweller's lament: You have a teeny and an even tinier budget to furnish it. Take t, 27, an international development manager, an Adams Morgan studio that measures less square feet. Her main space (there's a separate must serve as living room, party den and snooze here are so many doors and not much light," she says. Vogt would love the place flow better for small parties, and she doesn't want to lose her gn or the exotic rugs and maps she's picked up on far-flung journeys. r out, we had three local design pros come up with redecorating plans th chic and cheap. Here are the stylish — and surprising — solutions up with. **JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)**



ABBY GREENAWALT



3 Douglas Burton

Co-owner, Apartment Zero, 406 7th St. NW;
202-628-4069; Apartmentzero.com

Burton, one of the proprietors of Penn Quarter's sleek home shop Apartment Zero, reimagined Vogt's pad as a mod, jet-setty lair. Ferm Living's map of the world vinyl decals hang on a wall boldly painted Duron's Golden Blonde. Also on the same wall: one of Vogt's exotic rugs, which Burton framed with Ikea materials. "Rugs sitting on top of carpeting say, 'I'm still in college,'" says Burton. The flat-screen TV goes up on the wall.

Burton ditched the queen-size bed and replaced it with West Elm's futon lounger. That left space for an Ikea coffee table with a shelf for storage. And since Vogt thinks her place is too dark, Burton wants to "add two lamps, which is better than overhead lights," says Burton. "That's a big no-no, because it washes everything out and makes you feel like you're in a cubicle." And if Vogt must work at home, Burton thinks she should do it at a nifty table by Magis, which attaches to the wall and flips down like an airplane tray table, in first class, of course.

Room Breakdown

- Strind coffee table, Ikea: **\$139**
- Futon lounger, West Elm: **\$328**
- Map wall decals, Fermliving, Apartment Zero: **\$153**
- Rug frame, Ikea: **\$30**
- 2 Kulla lamps, Ikea: **\$100**
- Strind side table, Ikea: **\$70**
- Duron paint in Fireking red and Golden Blonde: **\$60**
- Magis Design Flip Me Table, Apartment Zero: **\$100**

TOTAL: \$980



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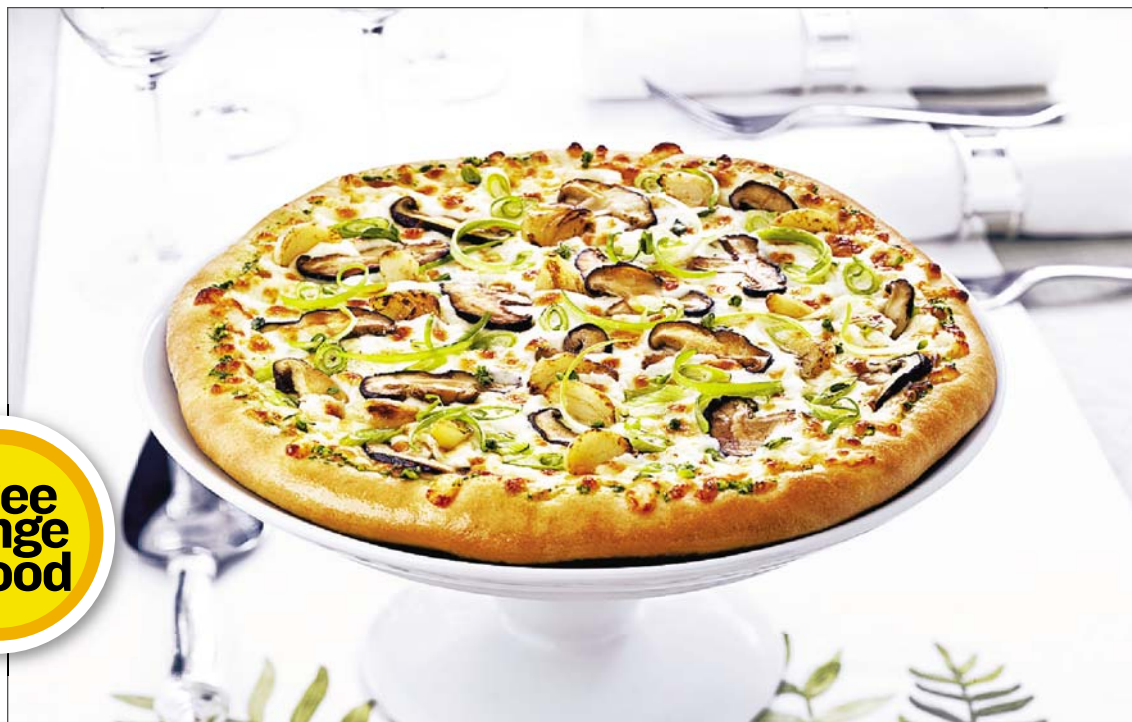
Styles | entertaining

Pizza Parties, Please

Grilled pizzas are great for a small party. One thing that works out well is cooking the first side of the crust, flipping it just to sear the other side a bit, and then taking it off the heat to top it. Then you don't worry so much about timing. Also, a friend taught me that if your pizza tastes blah, squeeze some fresh lemon over it. It really adds a nice zing!

Yes, a make-your-own pizza party is always a hit. We do this at my sister's in southern Maine. But I've found that there's plenty of time to top a pizza on the grill without the burning it if you make a two-zone fire.

Before I grill pizza, do I need to pre-cook any vegetables that tend to release water before putting them



GETTY IMAGES

on the pizza? Or can I use raw vegetables without fear of sogginess?

This dough is so crisp from the heat of the grill that sogginess isn't usually an issue — but, remember, the toppings don't really cook once they're on this type of pizza, so only put raw things on there if you want to eat them raw. Closing the grill helps melt cheese and warm

things through, but it all happens very quickly, so crunchy veggies will stay crunchy. I like the strategy of not just pre-cooking everything that will go on the pizza, but pre-grilling it. That keeps it all smoke-kissed.

Buying dough already prepared makes making pizza a weeknight

proposition. I've just prepared dough from Vace and Trader Joe's whole-wheat offering, both with good results. Are there others that you know of that we should try?

I've sampled premade dough only from Vace, and it was as good as eating Vace in-house. Whole Foods is allegedly pretty good, too, and I've heard positive things about the

Italian Store. As far as store-bought versus homemade: Once you get the hang of homemade, kneading your own is almost as easy, especially when you make a couple batches and freeze it.

How do you know how much is too much sauce? Often after pulling the pizza out of the oven, the sauce is still wiggly. Any advice?

A glaze of ingredients usually works best. For sauce, I ladle a couple wooden spoonfuls of sauce onto the dough and spread it with the back of the spoon.

My dough always turns out too "breadly." Any suggestions?

I've found that how breadly the dough is has to do 1) size of the dough balls 2) rising time or 3) making the rounds before adding ingredients for the oven. When dough had been too breadly when I first started, I ended up using a rolling pin to make it as thin as possible, then graduated to using my fingertips to push the dough out.

? The staff of the Washington Post Food section goes Free Range on Food every Wednesday at 1 p.m. at washingtonpost.com/liveonline. Catch up on recipes, cooking trends and more.

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Allison Brooks Ross Schwalm

Allison, 23, is a marketing specialist. Ross, 23, is a consultant. They live in Arlington.

- **The Main Event:** An evening wedding and reception in Woodbridge, Va., on June 7. Allison will walk the aisle to "When I Fall in Love" by Nat King Cole.
- **Honeymoon:** They'll take mini-getaways throughout the summer: Disney World in July and Manhattan in August.
- **How They Met:** In their ninth-grade history class. They started dating two years later.

- **First Date:** A trip to the movies to see "Ocean's Eleven."
- **How He Proposed:** While a senior at James Madison University, Allison prepared to give a speech at a gala event. Ross took her to a quiet hallway so she could rehearse. "He was looking around and I asked him what was wrong. He said nothing. As soon as I looked back at my note cards, he got down on one knee."
- **Most Hated Clothing Item:** "He has an old orange Nike shirt with a yellow swoosh that is awful." "This blue dress with a crazy paisley pattern on it."
- **Celebrating Heritage:** They will display their parents' and grandparents' wedding photos at the reception.
- **Mmmm, Cake:** Tiers of chocolate, vanilla and raspberry.
- **When He Knew:** "It wasn't a specific time. I gradually knew that I wanted to spend the rest of my life with her."

"I gradually knew I wanted to spend the rest of my life with her."

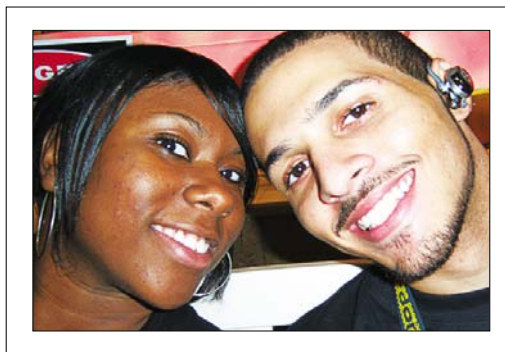
Michael Little, Christian Parker

Michael, 20, is a PC technician. Christian, 21, is a bank teller. They live in Fort Washington.

- **The Main Event:** An intimate ceremony on a cruise ship in Atlantic City on June 7. Following their vows, they'll sail along the city shore to celebrate. A large reception is planned for when they return home to Maryland.
- **Honeymoon:** A cozy cabin in Pennsylvania. Says Christian: "What's

better than a romantic getaway tucked in the mountains?"

- **How They Met:** They were introduced by mutual friends.
- **First Impressions:** "He was really cute and shy," says Christian. "He didn't even look my way until I said something to him." "She was happy to see me even though we didn't know each other, but I liked that," says Michael.
- **First Date:** A trip to the movies to



- see "Blades of Glory."
- **How He Proposed:** Along Christian's favorite waterside spot, Cosca Regional Park. "The only giveaway was how fast



Puppetry of Passion

When **MICHAEL ULRICH** first saw **PAUL COOPER** at Northwest's Caribou Coffee, his first impression was simple: "He needed a haircut." Yet after a couple hours of chatting, Paul had "coerced Michael into accepting a ride home on my scooter, for which I received a minimal peck." "The scooter was orange," concedes Michael. "A plus." But it was three months later that he knew Paul was the one: "I fell in love at about 5 a.m. on a Miami dance floor, when he pulled out a finger puppet." (See above.) "Marriage was a done deal after that." When Paul proposed during a vacation in Orlando, Michael didn't hesitate to say yes. They will head to Florida yet again to exchange vows at Walt Disney World on June 5. In lieu of an aisle, they'll parade down a runway to Bette Midler's rendition of "Chapel of Love." Reception highlights? Balloon hats, Goofy cupcakes and light-up tambourines. Says Michael: "Think New Orleans funeral meets Disney electric parade."

Paul, 46, is a consultant. Michael, 43, is an associate director at the University of Maryland. They live in D.C.

his heart was racing," says Christian.

- **Their Song:** "Heaven" by Jamie Foxx. "He said it reminded him of me, and it's been our song ever since," says Christian. "I felt she was an angel sent from heaven," says Michael.
- **Stupidest Fight:** "We had a dumb fight about me having a MySpace page," says Christian. "I had a lot of guys on that page that I was friends with."
- **Pet Names:** Christian's is Booger Boo and Wild Flower, while Michael's nickname is Boopie.
- **When He Knew:** "About a month after we got together, I felt that we were a perfect match for one another."



Bonnie Moulton, Carlos Wall

Bonnie, 27, works for the Art Institute of Washington. Carlos, 28, is an attorney. They live in Fairfax.

- **The Main Event:** A semiformal ceremony and reception in Annapolis on June 7. Bonnie's uncle will officiate.
- **How They Met:** At Ozio in midtown. "He came over and gave me a cheesy line," says Bonnie.
- **First Impressions:** "I was wary of his flirting but couldn't get over how cute he was!" "I thought, 'Wow, I think she's buying all this stuff!'"
- **First Date:** Carlos invited Bonnie to watch Sunday night football with his pals. "I bought Cluck-U wings and won all their hearts!" Bonnie says.
- **How He Proposed:** While Bonnie slept, Carlos "started rambling about

"I realized I wanted to marry her right before I proposed. I didn't want to lose my nerve."

- how he had done some serious thinking and had to ask me something," she recalls. "Somewhere between my coming into consciousness and his nervous behavior, I realized he was proposing."
- **Stupidest Fight:** "He was trying to teach me to salsa-dance and was doing it too fast. He then told me I was so bad that he didn't think I could be taught."
- **Celebrating Heritage:** They will use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer marriage ceremony, which was used at Bonnie's parents', grandparents' and great-grandparents' weddings.

Getting Married? If you'd like to see your wedding or commitment ceremony in B.I.O., send your favorite informal photograph (wacky is fine, but please don't send a formal engagement shot), plus your names and ceremony date to weddings@readexpress.com. Please contact us at least one month before your wedding. We'll get back to you with some questions as your big day approaches.



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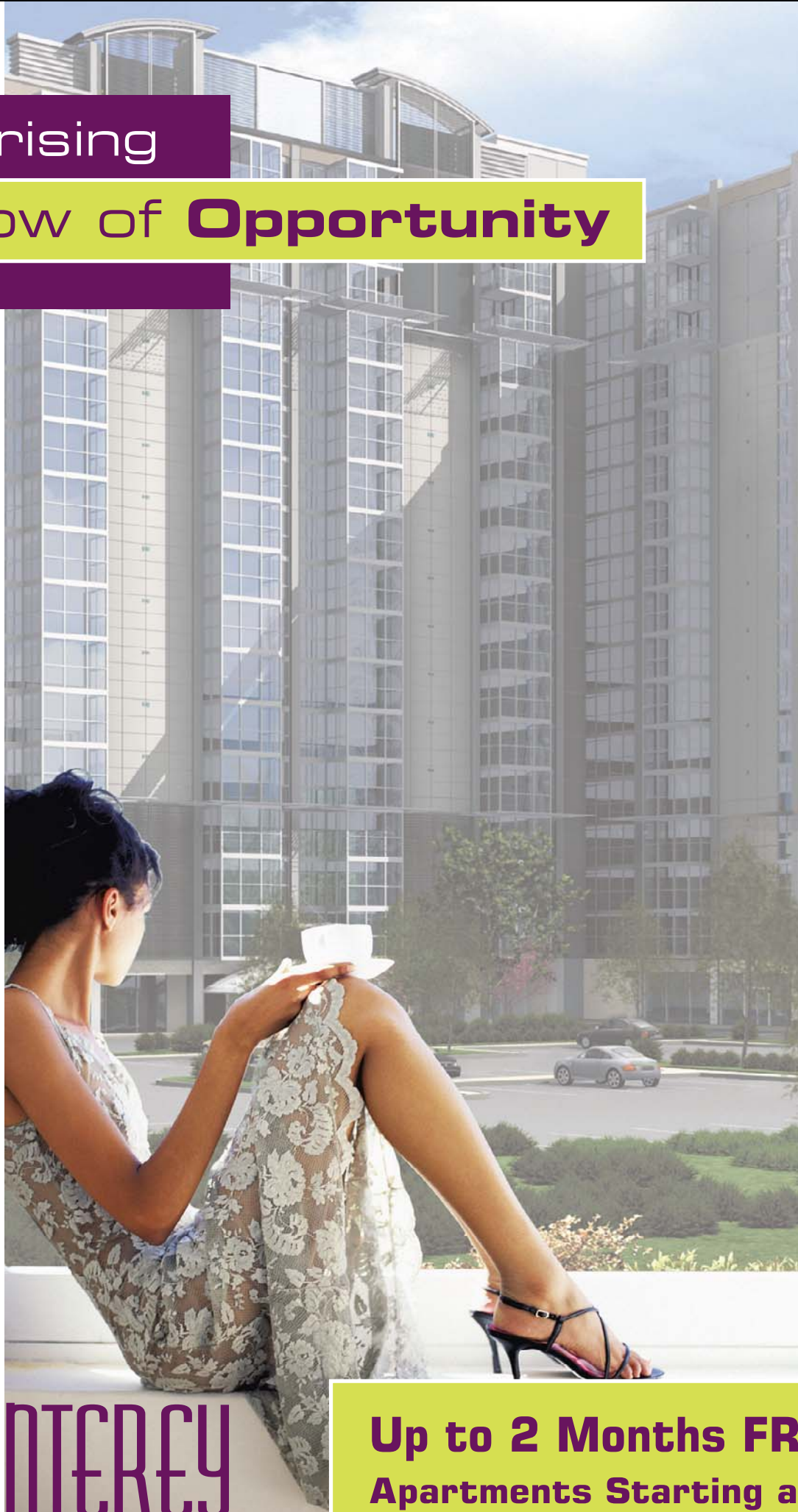
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Room and Board

For a say in how your building is run, join your condo association | **E2**

The Freshest Flats

Up-and-coming condos range from eco-units in Virginia to Shaw lofts | **E8**



Pads Gone Rad

A New York show house puts high style into a high-rise apartment | **E22**



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Condo boards help to keep up roofs, balconies and communities

Be honest, now, condominium owners. Your condo association meetings are:

A. Tedious. I avoid them like my office mate with chronic pinkeye.

B. A chance to flirt. That cute guy from the fourth floor might show up.

C. Worthwhile. I feel like I am affecting life in my building in a positive way.

Did you answer A or B? Remember, folks, it's your money (and your neighbors') that's being spent by your condo association, so why wouldn't you want a say? If that means signing on for monthly or quarterly meetings, it might actually be a good use of your time — and not just so you can meet potential mates.

Most associations' bylaws dictate that a board of directors be appointed to decide how the building will spend the fees levied on each unit (often calculated according to square footage) and any accrued savings or "reserves." Is the roof showing its age? Is the landscaping wilted? Should a new building management company be retained, or do the owners believe they can run the place themselves?

Virtually all condo buildings have associations whose board of directors or officials meet on a regular basis to discuss these and other issues. Not all condo owners serve as officials, who may be elected or appointed, and all owners are entitled to a say. But that influence is lost if they don't show up at meetings or otherwise participate.

Owners in the District, Maryland and Virginia agree it's important to weigh in to get what you want out of your real estate investment/home.

Andrea Attili, 35, a program manager with a nonprofit in Alexandria, didn't like the way



The condo board at Capitol Hill's Fairfax Condominium determines how monthly fees are used to maintain common spaces.

her Capitol Hill building was being managed when she bought her one-bedroom unit in February 2005, so she jumped into the fray.

"I thought, 'Well, I can sit back and complain, or I can try to do something about it,'" says Attili, now president of the board at the Fairfax Condominium, a 20-unit building facing Lincoln Park.

Among the first orders of business: Attili and other officers, including a secretary and a treasurer, hired a new building-management company.

"We would ask the [former company] to replace a light bulb, and it would take eight months," Attili says. The officers interviewed several businesses and selected Hill-based Atlas Properties. Atlas' service "has been responsive and fantastic," says Attili, who says the

Got a noisy neighbor? Taking the issue to your condo board should be the last resort.

Fairfax spends about \$700 each month to retain Atlas.

Boards also may help resolve issues such as how common space like roof decks can be used, or settle disputes over neighbors' noise infractions. Ideally, though, taking that issue to the board should be a last resort. "Some boards like to make decisions that boards probably shouldn't make," including getting involved early on in a tussle between neighbors, says Caroline Mindel, president of Mindel Management Inc., whose office opened on Swann Street NW in 1982.

Such boards tend to micro-manage every aspect of running the building, Mindel says; others put off making any decision, be it tiny or monumental. Yet of the roughly 40 condominium association boards her company deals with District-wide, most work effectively together. "When [board members] respect each other and get along, it is so much easier."

Some condo associations need an infusion of backbone. One owner in Bethesda, who is trying to sell his unit and asked not to be iden-

“When [board members] respect each other and get along, it is ... easier.”

CAROLINE MINDEL, CONDO MANAGER

tified, believes his building's board has abdicated its responsibility in deciding how reserves are spent.

“The management company has all the incentive in the world to spend as much as possible to make the building a gem — but it's not their money to spend,” says this owner, who reminds his fellow condo owners that management companies serve at the pleasure of the board, not the other way around.

In his building's case, fees have spiked in recent years, but reserves have not risen accordingly, in part because the management company plows the money back into improve-



Andrea Attili didn't like the way her Capitol Hill building, the Fairfax, was being managed, so she joined the condo board.



Even a building's brick walls are a concern of the condominium board's.

ment projects with little oversight from the board. Sounds good at first blush, but depleted reserves and jacked-up fees are not a prescription for the long-term health of any condo building, especially when it comes to attracting new owners. Should a storm damage the roof or flooding affect the common areas, such as the basement laundry room, lack of reserves means that so-called special assessments might be levied on each unit to make up for the shortfall and repair the damage.

CONTINUED ON E4

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If you don't get it, you don't get it.

Join the Board

CONTINUED FROM E2

Other boards take proactive roles with the companies they pay for any service.

Take 1800 Wilson Boulevard in Arlington, where Holly Feyler, a massage therapist, owns a one-bedroom condo and serves on the building's budget and finance committee. Feyler, 37, says she has "a voice in deciding what type of improvements we make" to her 150-unit building. She says that most of her fellow owners are similarly engaged.

Recent projects include reviewing the maintenance contracts the building has with landscapers, trash-collection services and other firms to see whether any money can be saved.

Condo owners often have much to learn about their role as board members, and Leslee Behar, founder of Atlas, says she sees it as her job to educate them.

"It's my job to teach our owners



PHOTOS BY MARGE ELY/EXPRESS



PUBLIC ASSISTANCE: Condo boards help enforce rules at buildings, such as whether barbecues are allowed, and when, where and how to put out trash and recycling.

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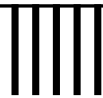
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Join the Board

CONTINUED FROM E5

how to be good board members, how to understand their documents, how to make rules based on their bylaws, how to choose vendors and award contracts, how to deal with conflicts between owners, etc.," she says. "I have tremendous respect that the real estate we manage is the single biggest investment most of our owners have. It is our job to help protect it."

You don't have to hire a property-management company to ensure your building is well-run — not if all owners are willing to pitch in and share the work of maintaining the building, collecting fees, setting a budget and performing other tasks.

Kurt Rakouskas, a project manager for the Environmental Council of the States, lives with his wife in a four-unit building near Columbia Heights where each resident, owner and renter takes an active role in condo matters. The building let go its property-management company because "we realized we could run it ourselves" and save the \$300 each month, he says.

"We got lucky that we have four

Condo boards determine how money is spent on upkeep.

sets of really agreeable people here," says Rakouskas, 32, who serves as president of the building's association. "I could see this being a nightmare if there were [owners] who were sticks-in-the-mud about things. While we don't always agree on everything, we have no choice" but to communicate with each other. In a building this small, "you're always going to be running into people."

The best condo association boards seem to be those where regular, amiable communication is the norm. "We want everyone to have a positive experience living there," Attili says. "And we're not schoolmarm: 'So-and-so has an [illegal] grill on their deck; what are we going to do about it?' I have friends who live in buildings like that." On the contrary, she adds, "We're a very relaxed group, which is what makes our building unique."

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THE ADDISON	DICKINSON 3 BR, 2 BA	3-306	CONDOMINIUM	\$259,900	\$ _____
CLARKSBURG	BRADFORD 2 BR, 2 BA	9-102	CONDOMINIUM	\$269,900	\$ _____
CLARKSBURG	BRIGHTWELL 2 BR, 2 BA	9-302	CONDOMINIUM	\$259,000	\$ _____
SUMMIT CROSSING	ASHBURY 2 BR, 2 BA	34	TOWNHOME-STYLE CONDO	\$349,000	\$ _____
SUMMIT CROSSING	BENJAMIN 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA	22	TOWNHOME-STYLE CONDO	\$381,900	\$ _____
MAPLE LAWN	RED MAPLE 3 BR, 3 BA	19	TOWNHOME-STYLE CONDO	\$399,900	\$ _____
MAPLE LAWN	RED MAPLE 3 BR, 3 BA	23	TOWNHOME-STYLE CONDO END HOME	\$422,900	\$ _____
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FRALEY'S GREEN	CLARENCE 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA	30	TOWNHOME END HOME	\$519,900	\$ _____
FRALEY'S GREEN	CLARENCE 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA	24	TOWNHOME END HOME	\$499,900	\$ _____



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Buy Now, Buy New

Despite the shaky market, these condos buildings are still rising high

The construction cranes crowding the D.C. cityscape, like so many mammoth pigeons, are fewer in number these days. In a real estate climate that's been described optimistically by some as contracting — and by some as tanking — now might seem like a strange time to buy.

“The condo market is recalibrating itself right now,” says Deb-

bie Rosenstein, president of the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association, a trade organization made up of more than 1,000 builders and members. “A lot of things that were going to become condos have become rentals for leasing.”

But while the current demand isn't at a historic high, there are plenty of new developments debuting in coming months and years — damn the torpedoed market!

22 West

1177 22ND ST. NW; 22WEST-DC.COM

THE SCOOP: In D.C.'s bustling West End neighborhood — that's between down-

town and Dupont — this glass-and-steel building offers 92 units ranging in size from 948-square-foot one-bedrooms to 3,600-square-foot three-bedrooms. Condo fees are high — \$700 to \$2,700, but that includes all utilities, high-speed Internet and HD satellite.

EXTRAS: Sleek Molteni closets with white lacquered doors and cherry-finish interiors cater to clotheshorses.

WHAT GETS YOU WHAT: One- to three-bedrooms cost \$783,000 to \$3.9 million.

WHEN: Delivers this summer.

“The market is recalibrating itself right now. A lot of things that were going to become condos have become rentals.”

Axis

243 15TH ST. SE; THEAXISCONDOS.COM

THE SCOOP: Old meets new at the Axis, which blends historic Capitol Hill (and stunning views) with

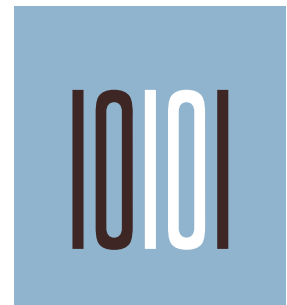
modern convenience. Twenty new condos might be a technophile's dream, since units feature pre-wiring so your audio-video system hooks into a central set of controls with built-in speakers. Plus, there's high-speed wiring for cable and Internet, and thumbprint door access for those who often lose their keys.

WHAT GETS YOU WHAT: One-bedrooms \$325,990; two-bedrooms from \$436,900.

EXTRAS: Situated in Lincoln Park, Axis is just a few blocks from sev-

CONTINUED ON E10

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CondoLiving



CROMLEY LOFTS

Alexandria's Cromley Lofts is the first LEED-certified condo building in Virginia. The pine floors were salvaged from a Georgia textile mill, and the plumbing fixtures use 30 percent less water than regular ones.

New and Now

CONTINUED FROM E8

eral Metro stops.

WHEN: Expected to be complete this month.

Cromley Lofts

1210 QUEEN ST., ALEXANDRIA;
CROMLEYLOFTS.COM

THE SCOOP: The first LEED-certified condo building in Virginia offers Earth-friendly features like bamboo cabinets, recycled glass tiles, pine floors salvaged from a Georgia textile mill and plumbing fixtures that use 30 percent less water than conventional ones.

WHAT GETS YOU WHAT: 750-square-foot one-bedrooms are \$535,000;

two-bedroom (\$645,000) units are 1,250 square feet. About a half-block away is a leased parking lot specifically for the building, so parking is available though not attached.

EXTRAS: A plant-filled green roof reduces heating and cooling bills — and owners' carbon footprints.

WHEN: The complex was recently completed and is now selling.

Iridium

1306 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. SE;
IRIDIUMCONDOS.COM

THE SCOOP: Mod walnut floors, sleek stone counter tops and recessed lighting give units in this Capitol Hill building a boutique hotel feel. It's located steps from the Potomac Avenue Metro station.

WHAT GETS YOU WHAT: Ten two-bed-

room units range from 1,000 square feet to a little less than 1,300 square feet with prices from \$475,000 to \$665,000.

EXTRAS: Customizable kitchens let you pick the colors for your European cabinetry (with perks like self-closing drawers!), as well as interior options and accessories.

WHEN: Late this summer.



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The glass-and-concrete, U Street/Shaw-located Lacey is named for the past owner of the Florida Avenue Grill, a local soul-food establishment.

Jordan Flats

1702 WEST VIRGINIA AVE. NE;
THEJORDANFLATS.COM

THE SCOOP: Near Gallaudet University and close to the recently revived H Street NE, these 24 new condos are a series of six refurbished 19th-century homes. Trad front porches, dormers and columns look old-fashioned, but amenities inside — bamboo floors, Jacuzzi tubs, stainless steel appliances — seem totally new-millennium.

WHAT GETS YOU WHAT: Two-bedroom condos with one or 1 1/2 baths start at \$216,000.

EXTRAS: Off-street parking and Jacuzzi tubs.

WHEN: Phase One is complete and selling; final units in Phases Two and Three will deliver in the fall.

The Lacey

1100 FLORIDA AVE. NW, LACEYDC.COM

THE SCOOP: Walls of glass and a Cubist, concrete exterior make this U Street/Shaw development ideal for fans of uber-contemporary architecture. The spot, named for Lacey Wilson, the one-time

owner of nearby soul food joint the Florida Avenue Grill. Most of the 26 units include outdoor space — think either courtyards or decks.

WHAT GETS YOU WHAT: One-bedrooms are in the \$300s; two-bedrooms are \$750,000.

WHEN: Expected to deliver in September.

Madrigal Lofts

811 4TH ST. NW; MADRIGALLOFTS.COM

THE SCOOP: Mount Vernon Triangle's second residential building offers 259 units housed in 12 stories. Ten-foot ceilings, exposed duct work and open floor plans give condos an airy, loft-like feel. Parking — a pain in this busy 'hood — is included.

EXTRAS: Shoppers and foodies can walk to Penn Quarter shops and restaurants, retail space and myriad restaurants.

WHAT GETS YOU WHAT: Starting at \$365,900 for a one-bedroom and the mid-\$400s for two.

WHEN: Now ready and selling.

CONTINUED ON E12

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CondoLiving

New and Now

CONTINUED FROM E11

Swann Street

1402 SWANN ST. NW;

FREEMANDEVELOPMENTGROUP.COM

THE SCOOP: Only the façade of this 1890s-era Victorian-style townhouse was standing when the developer started building six new 1,250-square-foot, two-bedroom condos two years ago. Loft décor includes Turkish limestone tiles and European kitchens and baths.

WHAT GETS YOU WHAT: Prices have dropped from an original asking price of \$589,000 to \$539,000 per unit.

WHEN: Now selling.

Takoma Overlook

7333 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE., TAKOMA PARK;

TENACITYGROUP.COM, CLICK ON "CONDO PROJECTS" AND THEN "TAKOMA OVERLOOK"

THE SCOOP: Views of the surrounding countryside elevate a converted 1960s building in the midst of this funky zone in Montgomery County. The 234-unit property boasts updated plumbing, windows, doors and mechanical systems, plus each unit features a customizable selection of designer granite and paint colors. Even more awesome: free



MADRIGAL LOFTS

The Madrigal Lofts — housed in only the second residential building in Mount Vernon Triangle — have the open-air atmosphere you'd expect from urban lofts. Penn Quarter, packed with restaurants and shopping, is just a brief walk away.

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WHAT GETS YOU WHAT: Studios from \$104,500; one-bedrooms from \$179,000; two-bedrooms, one-bath from \$189,500; and two beds, two baths from \$234,500.

EXTRAS: Pets are allowed — and no weight limits — so bring your Saint Bernard. Exterior grilling areas, tennis and basketball courts and a swimming pool lend the place extra outdoor appeal.

WHEN: Completion is expected in 2008. LYNN THORNE



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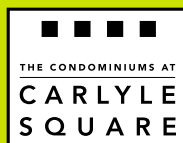


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The Owner's Lament

In a down market, finding a tenant to rent your condo can be difficult

Susannah Moss's trendy one-bedroom Adams Morgan condo, in a converted warehouse, has become a potential money drain.

Since Moss contracted to buy the unit in early 2005, she has married, had a child and outgrown the space. She is trying to sell the condo but has been hampered by the housing slump. Three months after putting it on the market, she has yet to receive an offer.

Now Moss, 33, wants to find a tenant for her condo while she waits out the economy. But the



Susannah Moss has been unable to sell her family's Adams Morgan condo but is required to wait before renting it out.

condominium association allows only 20 percent of the units to be leased at once, so Moss is on a waiting list. If she tries to rent the unit without permission, she could face a \$500-per-month fine.

Condo residents have long scrapped over noise levels, pets and power plays. But the housing downturn is creating a whole new set of problems. Some associations are struggling with rising foreclosures and mounting delinquencies on monthly assessments. Others are finding that rental policies created to preserve property values have become too restrictive for owners who want to rent out their units while waiting for prices to rebound.

Rental policies vary by condo association, but generally they limit the percentage of units that can be occupied by tenants. Some communities require owners to submit the lease they plan to use to the condo board for approval. Renters, the associations believe, are not as

CONTINUED ON E14

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Alexandria Carr at Pinecrest

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- Cathedral Ceiling

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CondoLiving



Susannah Moss, shown with her son, Jack Edward, must wait to rent out her condo.

Rental Patience

CONTINUED FROM E13

diligent as owners about the upkeep of the property and could drag down home values.

The rental restrictions are also meant to guard against the condo's being viewed as a risky investment by lenders who believe that buildings with a high concentration of rentals are more difficult to market to home buyers. Fannie Mae will not guarantee a loan for a condo in which renters make up more than 49 percent of the occupants.

Rental caps are as low as 10 percent in some condo communities, said Jason Fisher, vice president of the board of directors of the Washington-area chapter of the Community Associations Institute, a trade group.

"These condos are saying, 'We don't want this to be just an apartment,'" said Fisher, a lawyer with Bethesda-based Lerch, Early & Brewer. "If you get above a certain number of units with renters, the lenders, the mortgage companies downgrade the buildings for purposes of loans."

But the policies can be restrictive during a housing downturn, when owners unable to sell their homes may want to turn to the rental market as a temporary fix. Unable to

rent, such owners can feel pressured to sell at a low price.

Moss is not the only owner in her building who wants to become a landlord, and the issue has become contentious. The debate "has created division within the community, and tempers and feelings are running very high," said Moss, who also is a real estate agent.

“If you get above a certain number of units with renters, mortgage companies downgrade the buildings for loans.”

JASON FISHER, LAWYER

Part of the struggle for some communities is in balancing the interests of owners who live in the building and those who bought as an investment. According to the National Association of Realtors, 18 percent of the properties bought by investors in 2007 were condos.

In 2005, George Gozen jumped into the condo craze, buying several units that he planned to sell quickly. When the market turned sluggish, he decided to rent out his two remaining Washington-area con-

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CondoLiving

Real estate pros believe a high number of renters can decrease property values.

dos. He is looking for tenants but is facing a 20 percent cap on rentals in both buildings.

At one of them, a luxury building near the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, the condo board has said it could evict unapproved renters, said Gozen, a mortgage loan officer. "My idea was not to be a landlord. My idea was to flip them, but here I am; I am stuck with them," he said.

Gozen is applying for hardship exemptions from both condo boards, arguing that without a renter he will not be able to keep the properties and will be forced into foreclosure or will have to sell at a particularly low price — both of which would drag down values for the entire building.

"I can only afford to pay their mortgages for a few months, and then I will have to go to foreclosure," he said. "If they would ease up on this until the market gets better, that would be great."

Many condo associations have tended to turn a blind eye to the rental restrictions or simply lacked the capability to keep track of when units were being rented out, real estate lawyers said. But now they are tightening oversight as mortgage lenders and insurers take a closer look at loan applications.

For example, starting this month, AIG United Guaranty will no longer insure mortgages in condo projects in what it defines as "declining markets." In other places, the major private mortgage insurer requires that no more than 30 percent of the units within the association be occupied by renters, down from 40 to 50 percent.

It will probably also become more difficult to finance the purchase of a condo with a high number of rentals using loans backed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the federally chartered mortgage-finance companies. The companies are taking a more detailed look at

loan applications, said Eric D. Gates, a mortgage broker at Apex Home Loans in Bethesda.

Lenders and insurers contend that buildings with a high concentration of renters can be more difficult to sell and have more trouble maintaining their value, Gates said. "I think they [lenders] also get concerned about the finances of the condo association. Investment properties have higher rates of default than owner-occupied properties," he said.

Condo associations have reacted to the more intense scrutiny by tightening oversight of their rental policies. To discourage rentals, some condos are now charging owners to have a tenant in their unit — \$100 per month in one community, said Robert J. Segan, a lawyer with Segan, Mason & Mason in Annandale.

"In the last year, more condos have wanted to put rental restrictions in place," he said. "I am hearing it more and more."

Yet the Federal Housing Administration sees room to loosen restrictions. The FHA proposes lowering its requirement that 51 percent of a condo building be owner-occupied to 33 percent, part of an overhaul and streamlining of its operation that is pending before Congress. Currently, about 2 percent of FHA loans are made for condos, and it can take three months to get agency approval because of overlapping requirements, said Meg Burns, director of FHA single-family program development.

"We think that, particularly in urban markets, that it's fairly common for large buildings to have lots of rentals," Burns said. "We feel like first-time home buyers should have access to prime rate financing for those buildings."

Real estate lawyer Pia Trigiani has advised condo communities to loosen their rental restrictions and try to address the behavior they fear from renters by requiring a longer lease — at least a year and sometimes two — as well as by requiring the tenant to abide by all of the association's rules and regulations.

"The sense is that if you are an owner, you are going to be a better neighbor, you are going to take better care of building," said Trigiani. "I don't know if that has ever been proven. A long-term tenant is as good as an owner." RENAE MERLE

(THE WASHINGTON POST)

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Never in The Dark

City dwellers must deal with overly bright street lights

They lie awake for hours, squeezing their eyes shut, putting pillows over their heads and trying to close the louvered blinds tighter. They rearrange their rooms — even their homes — and spend hundreds of

dollars on room-darkening shades. Some furtively climb ladders to coat the bright streetlights outside their homes with a cloud of black spray paint, hoping to eclipse the glare.

One woman said the fancy new street lamps outside her apartment window are so bright that a recent dinner guest donned sunglasses before tucking into his pasta.

As neighborhoods across the



Maryann Puglisi's Dupont Circle apartment overlooks several new light fixtures.

District get lighting upgrades, residents increasingly are crying foul. New fixtures meant to fit a neighborhood's historic aesthetic and the introduction of energy-efficient bulbs have been causing sleepless nights from Georgetown to Penn Quarter.

"These lights are not practical for residential neighborhoods," Maryann Puglisi said of the streetlights erected in December outside her Dupont Circle building. The arching pendants resemble a bishop's crook with a fluted base. "If you look out my window, it hurts. The globe of light pierces your eyes."

Neighborhoods periodically get lighting upgrades, sometimes at the request of residents or because aging electrical systems need to be replaced. Other changes are made to evoke the city's his-

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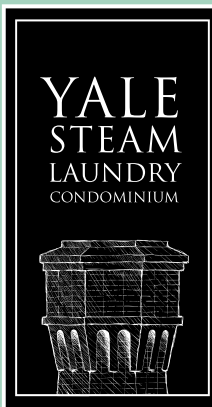
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Bally Total Fitness

“These lights are not practical for residential neighborhoods. If you look out my window, it hurts.”

MARYANN PUGLISI, DUPONT CIRCLE

tory, like the rows of “Washington globes,” wrought-iron sentries holding aloft glass spheres along Georgetown’s quaint streets and in other historic areas.

Upgrading the city’s 67,000 lights is being done on a piecemeal basis. Rebuilding each streetlight — with a new duct, wiring, man-hole, pole, hardware, bulb and globe — could cost up to \$25,000, said Karyn LeBlanc, spokeswoman for the D.C. Department of Transportation.

When giant glass globes and decorative lampposts first graced the cobblestone streets of yesteryear, the light source was a small gas flame. Today, white-hot 150-watt bulbs burn in the similarly styled light fixtures. The high-pressure sodium lights found throughout most of the city are the most energy-efficient and cost-effective, and they are the long-lasting products, LeBlanc said. But inside the old-time glass globes, their light spills beyond the sidewalk and into the bedroom.

In some cases, when residents have complained about too-bright lights, engineers found that the neighborhood had simply grown used to the soft glow of a dirty, dying light and are shocked at how bright a new bulb can be, LeBlanc said.

“People like the Washington globe. It’s an old, historic look. The problem is, the Washington globe shines right into the home,” said D.C. Council member Jim Graham, D-Ward 1. “I’ve had neighborhoods that lobbied for the globes and got them, then hated them.”

The problem of light spillage was addressed across the United States in the 1950s, when the sleek design of the “cobra light” made its debut. Looking much like the reptile’s head, cobra lights stream light down from their aluminum casings.

But when they appear in a leafy

CONTINUED ON E18

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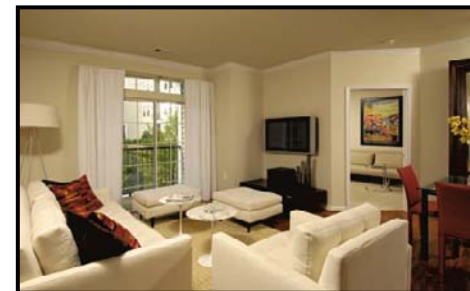
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CondoLiving

Oh, No, the Glow!

CONTINUED FROM E17

neighborhood, the light shines on the treetops rather than on the sidewalk or parked cars. When neighbors want something they consider a little more charming or safe, cobra lights are often replaced with Washington globes.

Residents often take matters into their own hands. Wherever the globes sit atop their \$5,000 lampposts near homes, inevitably there are rows of the lights with half the globe spray-painted to block the illumination. Along P Street NW near Logan Circle, on dozens of blocks in Georgetown and in Penn Quarter, the quaint lights have been vandalized by insomniacs with paint cans in hand.

City engineers are working to find a solution, including adding an internal shade to the lights. In rare cases, DDOT workers have spray-painted the globes, LeBlanc said. But that has not stopped the upending of lives.



"The globe of light pierces your eyes," says Dupont Circle resident Maryann Puglisi, who finds the new lights annoying.

"I have one of these bright lights across the street from my bedroom, and since it was installed last fall, I have had insomnia problems," said Virginia Jarrett, who has lived in her Chevy Chase neighborhood for about 60 years. "When I take my dogs out at night, I sit on my front steps and it's like daylight. The light gives me a headache. It was never like this, in all my years here."

A larger, more global issue is at play, said Richard Berg, a retired astronomer who has endured bright lights in Chevy Chase for years. In his backyard is a homemade observatory, complete with retractable roof. The light pollution that comes from the orbs that splash light in every direction is his biggest distraction.

"I'm dismayed by the wasteful amount of energy that's used to illuminate this residential neighborhood," Berg said. "I believe that Washington, D.C., could get by adequately with half the number of streetlights that exist today, especially if they were properly shielded." PETULA DVORAK (THE WASH-

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The housing slump leads to bargains on landscaping, repairs

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"We're trying to make the phones ring," says Karen Richey, marketing director for the company, which is based in Capitol Heights.

The housing downturn, declining consumer confidence and spiraling energy costs have taken their toll on



LENSPODEN

CONTINUED ON E20

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CondoLiving

Cheap Fix-Ups

CONTINUED FROM E19

many parts of the home improvement industry, from architecture and landscaping to roofing and window manufacturing.

This can be good news for homeowners seeking repairs or renovations. While they may not get a cut-rate kitchen makeover, they can often get quality contractors to do smaller jobs that would not even rate a callback during the boom, and they can have a much shorter wait for work to begin.

Last Saturday morning, Meadows Farms — which has lost considerable landscaping business at the same time that trucking costs for large plants and trees have skyrocketed — held an “early bird” sale at its 22 nurseries. Already discounted items were reduced an extra 10 percent between 8 and 11 a.m. “to entice people to come in,” says Ted Zurawski, a company senior vice president.

That meant, for example, sav-



Arlingtonians Jonathan and Andrea Jacobs, with son James, shop for plants at Meadows Farms Nursery in Falls Church.

ings of about one-third on popular Knockout rosebushes. Usually \$25 each before the initial markdown to \$19, the early bird price was just \$17.09.

“People are coming to expect sales,” says Zurawski, who was careful to emphasize that “we do not” bargain on landscaping, patio-building or other big jobs.

In these hard times, however, some contractors will succumb to haggling, though they are not eager to admit it for fear of harming their business. “Everything is negotiable,” says one longtime Northern Virginia remodeler, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. “In good times, we have a lot of work and phone calls, and keep our prices up. When we slow down, well, we negotiate.”

Others try to use speed rather than price as a carrot, says Keith J. Decker Sr., co-owner of Jack’s Roofing Co. in Silver Spring.

Having laid off six of his 35 employees this year, he grimly jokes, “What time today do you

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Kathleen Wilson of Falls Church buys discounted geraniums at Meadows Farms.

want it done?" It is an overstatement, he adds, but gone is his five-week backlog.

James Ragusa, who owns Certified Window Supply in Fairfax, will not negotiate. But if you sign a contract to buy replacement windows while he's at your home pitching the job, he'll knock off 10 percent "so I don't have to make a second trip and burn more gas" to close the deal.

As an incentive, he promises faster delivery. Last year's wait of up to a month is down to about two weeks because the factory in Pennsylvania that customizes each replacement is no longer tied up making windows for new houses.

Not everyone in the industry is hurting, particularly in parts of the District and some close-in suburbs where housing values are relatively stable, says architect Bruce Wentworth. Design work at Wentworth Inc. in Chevy Chase is somewhat down, he says, but construction is chugging along. Although consumers know that "investing in their home is still very prudent and smart," Wentworth says, "they might not do some of the bells and whistles they might have done — steam showers or super-expensive

appliances."

Tim Burch, who owns Burch Builders in Warrenton and heads the local chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), says that "with all the doom and gloom you read, our members are not necessarily seeing that."

In a recent survey of 132 NARI members by George Mason University, 33 percent were positive about the current market, and 22 percent were negative. The rest were neutral. But when asked to predict conditions in six months, optimism increased to 47 percent.

"The bigger companies have seen some slowdown," Burch says. "The good contractors still stay busy."

What many contractors large and small see, however, is new competition and some serious underbidding of projects by laid-off painters, carpenters and others who no longer work on new homes.

"I have customers who are quoting ridiculous prices from other contractors that they may ask me to match," says Jim Prentice, owner of J.F. Prentice Construction in Oakton, Va. "Sometimes I can, sometimes I can't." ANNIE GROER

(THE WASHINGTON POST)

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KETTLER



High Style, Meet High-Rise

The Kips Bay Show House trots out hot apartment designs

Here's a reality check on ballrooms and 14-foot-tall ceilings: The Kips Bay Decorator Show House, that long-standing barometer of top-tier American design, is suffering from recession blues. The 36th-annual show house, which closed last week, reflected the hard reality of a real estate market that is souring even for hedge-fund traders.

The spring event is known for glittery transformations of \$50 million Upper East Side mansions that are featured in glossy decorating magazines.

For the first time, the event was staged in an apartment building, the block-long Manhattan House on East 66th Street. The 1952 white-brick modernist icon of 583 units is undergoing a conversion from rentals to condos. The 22 participating designers took on modest rooms characterized not by soaring spaces, crown molding and marble fireplaces, but by boxy windows, 8 1/2-foot-tall ceilings and scuffed-up parquet floors.

"We had trouble finding properties this year," said Jennifer Skoda, a spokeswoman for the event, which last year raised \$1 million for the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club. "We wanted to find something extraordinary, but the real estate market is tough, and sellers didn't want to tie up a house."

Perhaps because the digs were humble, the designers went out of their way to make the rooms more theatrical than usual.

"Downscale shouldn't mean less luxurious or less dramatic," said designer Larry Laslo, who did a glamorous penthouse with mid-century touches and a view of the Chrysler Building. He used a faux gold brick that he bought for \$79 at Conran's last season as a recession-proof doorstop. "We're trying to make ordinary living look good here," he said.

Nancy Ruddy of Cetra/Ruddy imagined a fashion editor's salon



HELAYNE SEIDMAN/TWP



PENTHOUSE BEAUTIFUL: At this spring's Kips Bay Decorator Show House, designers decked out rooms in a Manhattan apartment building in styles from mod to sleek.

with a black patent-leather chair and silver-leafed linen walls. For Ellen Ward Scarborough and Madeline Ward Roth, inspiration came from a pineapple-shaped cookie cutter that they morphed into the design for a headboard in a young

woman's bedroom. Designer Philip Gorriaran imported a stretch polymer fabric from France that acts as a ceiling mirror to make the gray master bedroom look bigger and absorb sound.

Despite a more down-to-earth

setting, the designers are not exactly slumming it. Spiffed-up luxury condos at the landmark building, originally designed by Gordon Bunschaft for Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, are selling for a small fortune. Studios start at just under \$1 mil-

lion; a 6,000-square-foot penthouse is \$20 million.

At those prices, the fantasy of keeping a small pied-a-terre in Manhattan will remain for most of us just that: a fantasy.

JURA KONCIUS (THE WASHINGTON POST)



Realtor John Taylor, right, helped buddy Robert Dahl buy property several times.

Friends With Connections

Think twice before hiring a real estate pro who is also a pal

Of course you know some real estate agents.

The National Association of Realtors has 1,235,598 members. Some are bound to live on your street, be in your yoga class or coach your child's soccer team.

"I don't know what I'd do if we had to sell our house," lamented Ellen Leander, a Northwest Washington homeowner with three sons. "I know so many real estate agents. How would I choose one?"

If that time comes, how do you tactfully navigate the ocean of representation pitches, retain your friendships and feel confident that you picked the right agent?

"Choose someone that you have confidence in as a professional," said Dennis Melby, president of the Greater Capital Area Association of Realtors, whose members include 11,000 agents in the District and Montgomery County.

How do you do that? First, ask yourself, "What exactly do I need?" Are you buying, selling or both? Real estate agents have personalities as well as specializations.

Before you choose to work with

a friend, ask yourself what type of agent that person is. If you are moving out of the area, does he have the experience and affiliations to find you a home in another state or country? If you are staying in the area, will you continue to have contact after the transaction? If hiring someone destroyed your friendship, what other parts of your life would be affected?

Nam Pho, a technology consultant, gave the listing to sell his Tysons Corner home to his cousin. "Although it was more than three years ago, small issues still linger and ultimately affected our relationship," he said. Pho was satisfied with the sale but did not work with his cousin when buying his current home in Springfield.

John Taylor, an agent with Chateau Real Estate in Georgetown, has worked with D.C. lawyer Robert Dahl on five transactions over 20 years: three condominium purchases and two sales.

"John and I met socially, and then I called him ... when I decided to buy instead of rent," Dahl said. "He's always shown me a range of properties in my price range. He educated me but didn't waste my time, and, in the end, I was completely satisfied with my decision."

BETH GILBERT (THE WASHINGTON POST)



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