

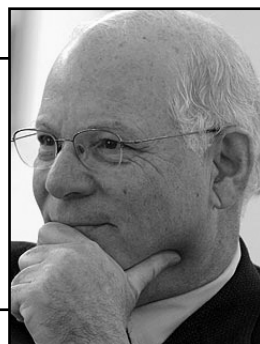
COMMENTARY

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST

A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



The Port of Baltimore On the Upswing

For those who believe the U.S. economy is in decline, I have one response for you: Come visit the Port of Baltimore. If you visit the Port, you will see first-hand that it is doing landmark business, a strong indication that our overall economy is on the upswing. Last year there was such a dramatic increase in the amount of imports and exports flowing through the Port that it saw the greatest increase of growth of any major port in the country.

We in Maryland are fortunate that the Port of Baltimore is so well positioned for the future. Earlier this year, construction was completed on a new 50-foot deep container berth at the Port's Seagirt Marine Terminal. In June, the Port welcomed four supersized container cranes that can load and unload cargo for some of the largest ships in the world, and, in 2015, the expansion of the Panama Canal will be completed allowing bigger ships from Asia to transit to East Coast ports. Baltimore will be only one of a few ports on the East Coast that will be able to handle these larger vessels.

Today, the Port of Baltimore is ranked number one among 360 U.S. ports for handling farm and construction machinery, autos, light trucks, imported forest products, imported sugar, imported iron ore and gypsum. It ranks second in the nation for exported coal, imported salt and imported aluminum.

The Port handles the largest export tonnage of autos and trucks in the nation, which is a reflection of the stronger U.S. auto market. In 2009, I was a strong supporter of President Obama's effort to save the domestic auto industry. Our investment of \$25 billion in loans is being repaid

and the domestic auto industry is now back on its feet. The increased volume of cars and light trucks going through the Port of Baltimore today is due in part to the decision we made to invest in the U.S. auto industry in early 2009.

All this trade translates into jobs -- jobs for Marylanders. Currently, the Port of Baltimore generates about 14,630 direct jobs and another 108,000 jobs are linked to Port activities. The Port is responsible for approximately \$3 billion in personal wages a year.

While our nation has gone through the most serious economic downturn since the Great Depression, the Port's booming business is strong evidence of the growing strength of our nation's manufacturing base and the resilience of our economy. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that 120,000 new factory jobs were created in 2011 and the United States continues to manufacture more than any other country in the world.

Another plus for the Port of Baltimore is the growing cruise industry. In 2011, more than 250,000 people sailed on more than 100 cruises out of Baltimore. Nearly all of these cruises sailed at 100 percent of capacity. All signs indicate that 2012 will be another record year for the cruise industry in Baltimore. The total economic value of the cruise industry to Maryland is about \$90 million, supporting approximately 200 direct jobs.

The Port of Baltimore is an economic engine for our state and a bell weather for our nation's economic health. A visit to the Port of Baltimore will convince most people that we are well on our way to an economic recovery.

To Be Equal

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Stevie Wonder: National Urban League Living Legend

"Prejudice, hatred, starvation...I'm tired of praying for things we don't want to change."
Stevie Wonder

From start to finish, the 2012 National Urban League Conference in New Orleans was hotter than a New Orleans summer. It also may have been our most successful gathering ever. The Conference opened on July 25th with a major domestic policy speech by President Obama in which he announced a new initiative promoting educational excellence for African Americans. And it closed on July 28th, with words and songs of inspiration by American musical icon, Stevie Wonder, who, along with Attorney General Eric Holder, received a National Urban League "Living Legend" Award.

For more than 40 years, Stevie Wonder has gifted generations of Americans with his unequalled talents as a musician, songwriter and singer. From his days as the harmonica playing, hand clapping 12 year old "Little Stevie Wonder" in the early 1960's to his status as a multiple-Grammy-winning icon today, Stevie has amassed one of the most prolific and recognizable songbooks in the history of American music. His repertoire is full of the lyrics of love and music meant to lift the spirit, challenge injustice, heal the soul, and promote peace. In the early 1980's, Stevie was a leader in the campaign to declare Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday. The song he wrote and recorded about that effort, "Happy Birthday," became an anthem of the King Holiday movement and its chorus has since become a standard sing-a-long at African American birthday parties.

activism even further beyond the stage and studio. He has lent his voice and some of the proceeds from his songs to ending South African apartheid, helping people with disabilities, fighting against hunger and homelessness and aiding the victims of Hurricane Katrina and the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami. For 16 years, he has provided toys for children and families in need with his annual House Full of Toys benefit concert. In 2009, United Nations Secretary-General Ban ki-moon named Stevie Wonder a United Nations Messenger of Peace.

Upon accepting his Living Legend award during our Whitney M. Young Awards gala, Stevie delivered a heartfelt appeal for people around the world to come together to end prejudice, hatred and starvation and to live up to the high ideals that are the focus of so much prayer and so little action. He said "It's time to get beyond those things that have crippled us for centuries." One of those crippling drawbacks is voter suppression which has once again reared its ugly head. Guaranteeing the right to vote for every American is the focus of the National Urban League's "Occupy the Vote" campaign. It was also the theme of our Conference.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Stevie could not resist sitting down at the piano and inviting the rapt audience to join him in a medley of some of his greatest hits, including "Don't you Worry 'Bout a Thing," and "Signed, Sealed, Delivered." It was a fitting way to end our Conference. The Living Legend award honors those who most exemplify the ideals of the Urban League movement. We could not have chosen two better recipients this year than U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and the legendary Stevie Wonder.



This National Historic Landmark derives its name from a 7,000-acre land grant from Lord Baltimore to a relative. It has been the home of justices of the county and levy courts, a U.S. Senator, and a U.S. ambassador. The property contains historic outbuildings such as a privy, a dairy, slave infirmary, and smoke house. Open Mar-Dec, Fri, 1 to 4 p.m.; 2nd and 4th Sun, 12 noon to 4 p.m. with last tour at 3:30 p.m. Group tours welcome and alternate visiting hours by appointment. (\$)

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Protect Now or Pay Later

Right before the U.S. House of Representatives left for the summer to go home to campaign for your vote, they voted to extend the Bush era tax cuts for the richest Americans millionaires and billionaires. For more than ten years the richest one percent have received almost \$750 billion from these tax cuts. Income and wealth inequality have grown astronomically threatening the very fabric of our democracy. The top one percent in our nation now possesses more net worth than the bottom 90 percent combined. In 2008, the 400 highest-income taxpayers earned as much as the combined tax revenue of 22 state governments with almost 42 million citizens. It's way past time to reset our moral and economic compass, demand a more just tax system where those with the most pay their fair share, and stop the reverse Robin Hood policies that take from the poor and young to give to the rich and powerful.

There should not be one new dime in tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires as long as millions of children in America are poor, hungry, uneducated and without health coverage. A nation that does not stand for its children does not stand for anything and will not stand tall in the future. Like Thomas Jefferson, I tremble for my country when I think that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever.

Yet the extension of the tax cuts for the wealthiest American, especially on top of the cuts approved in the Ryan budget, passed by the full House defies the prophets, apostles and tenets of all great faiths as well as common decency and economic common sense. The most recent vote continues to give huge tax breaks to those who need them least while shaving away lifelines of survival from those who need them most. It would cut eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and the Child Tax Credit (CTC), two of the most effective investments we have that lift children out of poverty, and

from the American Opportunity Tax Credit which helps struggling families pay for their children's college. These cuts would push 900,000 children into poverty and at least 6.4 million children into deeper poverty an unconscionable act when 16.4 million children are living in poverty 7.5 million in extreme poverty.

This is a year of stark political, economic and moral choices. Those who caused the deficit should be asked to pay to close it and not be rewarded with more tax breaks which will increase the deficit and shave already inadequate safety investments. Children under five are the poorest age group in America, and one in four infants, toddlers and preschoolers are poor during the years of greatest brain development. If you believe as I do that we have more just and sensible choices like helping babies during their early childhood development years rather than helping billionaires who need not one additional material thing, then speak up and fight back.

Cascading federal, state, county and city budget cuts

adding up to hundreds of billions of dollars are being pushed by lawmakers pursuing a toxic ideological agenda of no new revenues, expanded tax cuts for the top one percent of Americans and billions of cuts for poor children and families. Our nation's greatest deficit is not one of money but of values and priorities that leave millions of children without hope or a vision of the future worth striving for in our militarily and materially powerful but spiritually anemic nation.

That's why the Children's Defense Fund has launched a new campaign to protect children from budget cuts at the national, state and local levels. The "Be Careful What You Cut" campaign lays out the irrefutable economic case that cutting children from the budget now costs all of us more later. It's a simple calculation really. Protect children now or pay later. The campaign is grounded in three provocative ads created by our award winning pro-bono advertising agency partner Fallon Worldwide. The head of a

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The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

County to Offer New Peer Review Program

New Program Expected to Cut Plan Review Process Time By Up to 50 Percent

By Press Officer
Office of the County Executive

Transportation for being innovative and finding efficiencies for our residents and stakeholders.”

DPW&T's Director, Haitham A. Hijazi, in discussing the new PRP, stated, "Based on a very similar program that DPW&T has had in place for several years, PRP will be a 'win-win' for everyone who lives, works, worships or plans to build in Prince George's County. Residents, businesses and developers have all benefited from this very positive program because it has reduced review times allowing for more expeditious construction of economic development projects, which will help to increase the commercial tax base."

"Peer Review does not take the permitting process out of the County's hands, it allows for preliminary reviews to be completed by a registered professional approved by the County to perform the review for the applicant, who pays for the review," says DER Director Samuel E. Wynkoop, Jr. "The Peer Reviewer is able to work with the applicant to address items that need to be completed before a staff engineer reviews the document for final approval, which cuts the review time almost in half for the in-house staff engineer. He or she is able to focus on the final review to bring the project to fruition."

The proposed PRP document has been posted on the County's Website for review and comment. Included in the document are the

LARGO, MD — Effective September 4, 2012, Prince George's County, under the auspices of the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) and the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T), will launch a new Peer Review Program (PRP) that will expedite and enhance quality control in the County's plan review and permit processes, while ensuring the safety of citizens, businesses and visitors in the County.

PRP is an optional program designed to allow builders, developers or owners (applicants) to use an approved Peer Reviewer in concert with County staff to reduce review times of applicants' submitted plans. Applicants who select to use a Peer Reviewer will pay fees directly to the Reviewer for costs associated with the review, and, at the same time, will still be responsible for paying all required permit fees to the County.

"The new PRP is estimated to reduce the plan review process time by up to 50 percent and will help to move the County forward, as it seeks to attract quality economic development," said County Executive Rushem L. Baker, III. "I want to thank the Department of Environmental Resources and the Department of Public Works and



PHOTO BY MARYLAND OFFICE OF TOURISM, FLICKR

Baltimore Inner Harbor
The Baltimore National Pike, which linked into the National Road ran from this vicinity past the country's oldest railroad terminus, now occupied by the Baltimore and Ohio railroad Museum.

established policies and procedures, qualifications, insurance requirements, quality control, quality assurance, sanctions, and more for individuals to be registered as Peer Reviewers (PR) for each department. Applicants who opt to use the PRP will select a PR from the approved lists, dependent upon the discipline(s), who will provide plan review services for applicants' respective development projects. All PRs must be registered with the County and have completed all documentation and training, as required by DER and/or DPW&T, to be considered for selection for an applicant.

DPW&T is responsible for approval of permit applications and/or inspections for grading oper-

ations, stormwater management and storm drainage systems within the County. In addition, DPW&T enforces grading standards and specifications to ensure public safety, as well as to meet Road Code requirements per Subtitle 23 of the County Code.

DER approves permits for construction, building/structural, fire protection, electrical and mechanical work, and ensures proper inspections of the construction. DER also enforces the most current adopted International Building, International Energy Conservation, International Mechanical, National Electrical, as well as the state of Maryland Fire Prevention, Accessibility and all referenced National Fire Protection Association codes and standards.

Bands from A1

corrals will allow auto enthusiasts to see some of the most beautiful cars on the road on display. The Grand Prix will feature the stars of the Indy 500 and the IZOD IndyCar Series plus the stars and cars of the American Le Mans Series. For tickets and more details on the Labor Day weekend festival, go to www.RaceOnBaltimore.com

Traffic and Parking Updates

Ticket buyers can purchase parking passes for each day of the Grand Prix weekend through Parking Panda. The parking passes start at \$3.00. More information can be found at the Parking & Directions section of the official event website at:

<http://RaceOnBaltimore.com/tickets-and-schedule>.

The RaceOnBaltimore.com site also features a series of access maps that outline the street closings and traffic patterns for the race weekend. Look for the detailed maps and descriptions at the Maps & Directions tab at the official event website at: <http://RaceOnBaltimore.com/grand-prix-of-baltimore/directions>. The Baltimore City Department of Transportation also has a number of interactive maps available online at: <http://GPTraffic.com>.

For multiple daily updates on all construction and traffic, follow the official Twitter feed, @GPofBaltimore, or the event's official Facebook page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/BaltimoreGP>.

Driver Appearances

Dr Pepper TEN, the official soft drink of the Grand Prix of Baltimore, and Giant Food, the official grocery store partner of the Grand Prix, will host an appearance by IndyCar driver Marco Andretti on Tuesday, August 21 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm at the Giant store at 2145 York Road in Timonium. Marco will meet fans and sign autographs, and fans can also expect to see the official Grand Prix showcar.

The Grand Prix of Baltimore race promoter and IndyCar legend Michael Andretti will meet fans and sign autographs from 5:00 – 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 30 at the Giant location at 7709 Harford Road in

Faces of the Grand Prix

Helio Castroneves
The likeable and outgoing Brazilian is known as much for his victory on ABC-TV's "Dancing with the Stars" as he is recognized as a three-time winner of the Indianapolis 500. Driving for Team Penske, Castroneves is just one of the drivers in the chase for the 2012 IZOD IndyCar Series crown. He is currently third in the championship standings with three races remaining. Look for Castroneves behind the wheel of the No. 3 Penske Truck Rental Dallara/Chevrolet at the 2012 Grand Prix of Baltimore. After the IndyCar season, look for Castroneves on the All-Star edition of Dancing with the Stars.

Tickets from A1

the price if they speed in a school zones," said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "It is imperative that area drivers be aware that our roads will be much more congested once school starts in the Washington Metro area. They must be more vigilant and aware of their surroundings since so many students walk or bike to school and others drive or are dropped off and picked up by family or friends."

By the time the 2012-2013 school year begins later this month, nearly 2.5 million children and teens in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia will be heading off to class. With 13 percent of those students typically walking or biking to school, AAA Mid-Atlantic warns drivers to be especially vigilant for pedestrians during before-and after-school hours. The afternoon hours are particularly dangerous for walking students. Over the last decade, nearly one-third of child pedestrian fatalities in the country occurred between 3 and 7 p.m.

Area drivers will need to get used to more congestion than they have this summer as students begin traveling back to

school. Locally, motorists spent less time on area roads and highways with delays dropping 18 percent between June 2011 and July 2011, according to the Transportation Planning Board. The first day for students in Prince George's County's public schools is August 20 and August 27 for pupils in Montgomery County and the District. Most Northern Virginia schools open after Labor Day on September 4 although some such as Loudoun County open in August.

Virginia estimates 1,260,500 pupils will attend public schools this year and another 100,000 young scholars will enroll at private schools. Maryland public schools expect 855,000 students with an additional 142,000 students projected to attend private schools. The District's enrollment is expected to be 80,000 students strong at its public and charter schools.

"The AAA Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education and AAA urge motorists to stay alert and be cautious while children are traveling to and from school," said Joseph G. Beddick, Manager of Safety Services for the Foundation. "A child's life may depend on how safe our drivers are especially during this time of year so it's impor-

tant that they are extra cautious during this time of the year."

AAA Mid-Atlantic offers six ways to keep students safe this school year:

1. Slow down. Speed limits in school zones are reduced for a reason. A pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 25 mph is nearly two-thirds less likely to be killed compared to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling just 10 mph faster.
2. Eliminate distractions. Children often cross the road unexpectedly and may emerge suddenly between two parked cars. Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of crashing.
3. Reverse responsibly. Every vehicle has blind spots. Check for children on the sidewalk, driveway and around your vehicle before slowly backing up. Teach your children to never play in, under or around vehicles – even those that are parked.
4. Talk to your teen. Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States, and more than one in four fatal crashes involving teen drivers occur during the after-school hours of 3 to 7 p.m. Get evidence-based guidance and tips at TeenDriving.AAA.com.
5. Come to a complete stop. Research shows that more than

one third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones or neighborhoods. Always come to a complete stop, checking carefully for children on sidewalks and in crosswalks before proceeding.

6. Watch for bicycles. Children on bikes are often inexperienced, unsteady and unpredictable. Slow down and allow at least three feet of passing distance between your vehicle and the bicycle. If your child rides a bicycle to school, require that they wear a properly-fitted bicycle helmet on every ride. Find videos, expert advice and safety tips at ShareTheRoad.AAA.com.

AAA's School's Open – Drive Carefully awareness campaign was launched in 1946 in an effort to prevent school-related child pedestrian traffic crashes—helping kids to live fulfilling, injury-free lives.

AAA Mid-Atlantic advocates on behalf of its nearly four million members in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. It provides a wide range of personal insurance, travel, financial and automotive services through its 56 retail branches, regional operations centers, and the Internet. For more information, please visit our web site at www.AAA.com

Business Exchange

by William Reed



Nation worries about 'upward mobility'

The wealthiest Americans live in gated communities that protect them from the masses. A new poll reveals that many Americans are questioning their prospects for "upward mobility." The high level of pessimism is reflected among respondents in a recent poll conducted by The Hill newspaper that found 47 percent of likely voters believe it's impossible for them to become wealthy during the course of their lifetime. The survey, conducted as the heated political presidential campaign becomes more acrimonious over the interests of the haves and the have-nots, found that fewer than 2 in 5 likely voters, 37 percent, think they can ever become rich.

This presidential election will have more to do with the economy and voters personal well-being than ever before. The Hill newspaper's survey findings suggest pessimism about the possibility of upward mobility as economic growth remains weak and jobs scarce. The national debate over wealth is intensifying as it creates economic divisions across the country's population segments. Although the economy will improve a bit in the second half of 2012, it will be another disappointing year of slow growth capping the worst three years of economic growth, outside of a recession. Between 2005 and 2010 the median net worth of Americans under 35 fell 37 percent, and the wealth gap between the young and the old in America is wider than it's ever been. The percentage of the workforce under age 25 has dropped 13.2 percent since 2008, and the U.S. unemployment rate is 12 percent for those age 18 to 29 because this age group's parents aren't retiring.

The wealth — more specifically, the median net worth — of households in the United States is varied in relation to race, education, geographic location and gender. Wealth in the U.S. is unevenly distributed, with the wealthiest 25 percent of U.S. households owning 87 percent of the total wealth. The median wealth of white households is 20 times that of Black households. And, Blacks vote more on emotion than economic well-being. For Black Americans the annual median household income in 2010 was \$29,328. It was \$35,856 among all races. While

Blacks make 62 cents of every dollar of income that whites make, they only have 10 cents for every dollar of wealth that whites have.

In The Hill poll almost 40 percent of people said that the threshold to being wealthy was a \$500,000 annual income. Twenty percent put the bar above \$1 million. Thirty-one percent of people said a family earning \$250,000 a year is wealthy. And, 9 percent said \$100,000 was the threshold.

Each day, America is composed more and more of economic haves and have-nots. Since the 2007 recession the share of total wealth owned by the nation's wealthiest one percent grew to 37.1 percent and that owned by the top 20 percent grew to 87.7 percent. The 2007 recession, and aftermath, also increased the wealth gap between the 1 percent and the 99 percent.

According to a CBS News/New York Times poll, a majority of registered voters believe that Mitt Romney's policies favor the rich. Fifty-three percent say Romney's policies favor the wealthy. Eleven percent says his policies favor the middle class, while 2 percent say they favor the poor. Thirty percent say Romney's policies treat all groups equally. Of the social segments that favor President Barack Obama's policies, 21 percent say his policies favor the rich, while 22 percent say they favor the middle class and 24 percent say they favor the poor. Twenty-five percent say Obama's policies treat all groups equally.

Are Black voters in a totally different place than the mainstream of Americans? The Hill poll's respondents' views differed based on income levels, with voters earning between \$40,000 and \$75,000 strongly preferring Romney over Obama. Among people earning between \$40,000 and \$60,000, 48 percent trust Romney more compared to 39 percent for Obama. People earning between \$60,000 and \$75,000 trust Romney more than Obama by a 34-point margin, 61 percent to 27 percent.

William Reed is head of the Business Exchange Network and is available for speaking and seminar projects through the Bailey Group.org.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

"Celeste & Jesse Forever"

"Celeste & Jesse Forever"
Grade: B-
Rated R, a lot of harsh profanity, some strong sexuality played for comedy, some vulgar sexual references
1 hr., 31 min.



ROTTENTOMATOES

Celeste (Rashida Jones) and Jesse (Andy Samberg) met in high school, married young and are growing apart. Now thirty, Celeste is the driven owner of her own media consulting firm, Jesse is once again unemployed and in no particular rush to do anything with his life. Celeste is convinced that divorcing Jesse is the right thing to do -- she is on her way up, he is on his way nowhere, and if they do it now instead of later, they can remain supportive friends. Jesse passively accepts this transition into friendship, even though he is still in love with her. As the reality of their separation sets in, Celeste slowly and painfully realizes she has been cavalier about their relationship, and her decision, which once seemed mature and progressive, now seems impulsive and selfish. But her timing with Jesse is less than fortuitous... -- (C) Sony Classics

these could be friends of ours.

It was Celeste's idea to break up, and Jesse, whose immaturity drove her to it, continues to hold out some hope of reconciliation at first -- hope that is fostered by occasional relapses into togetherness. The balance of power shifts when Jesse starts seeing someone new: now it's Celeste who feels left out, leading to some questionable attempts at finding someone of her own. It seesaws like that, with Jesse and Celeste remaining friends (mostly) as they struggle to move past their failed marriage.

When the film gets weaker, it's because it has moved away from the funny-because-it's-true aesthetic toward one that's more broad and contrived: Celeste

falling out of a garbage can she was snooping in just as Jesse arrives; a series of bad first dates that become exaggeratedly awful. At times it seems like Jones is attempting the kind of comical self-abasement that Kristen Wiig did so well in "Bridesmaids," but it never suits her. Jones just isn't that kind of comedian, at least not yet, and the humiliations she endures here aren't very funny.

Much more promising is the angle that has Celeste always thinking she's smarter than everyone and gradually being humbled into realizing that's not true, in part through her professional experiences (she's in marketing) with a vapid tween pop star played by Emma Roberts.

Despite the two-name title, the film (which was directed by Lee Toland Krieger) is mainly about Celeste's personal journey, and this aspect of her flawed personality is interesting. But the theme is underdeveloped: it's not apparent that Celeste has a superiority complex until another character spells it out.

Thematic murkiness aside, the film achieves a mostly successful mix of mainstream and indie sensibilities -- hip enough to have street cred, accessible enough to reach an audience outside of art-houses. It's also a promising first screenplay from Jones and McCormack, two actors with no prior writing credits. May their partnership last forever.

The Ninth Annual Dance DC Festival Kicks Off September 24th at The Atlas Performing Arts Center

D.C. Arts Commission Celebrates the Drum with Dance DC Festival: City Rhythms

Washington, D.C. - On September 24th and 25th, 2012, the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCAH) will host its 9th annual Dance DC Festival - a festival which highlights the folk traditions of the world through live music and dance. The events will be held at various locations throughout the city and are free and open to the public. This year, the DCAH will celebrate the foundation of rhythmic expression in every culture around the world - the drum.

"Dance DC Festival is one of our signature events each year," said Lionell Thomas, Executive Director of the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities. "It's a great reflection of the diversity of Washington, and gives our residents a chance to celebrate one of the common threads that all cultures share - the art of dance."

Beginning Friday, September 24th, the festival begins at the Atlas Performing Arts Center with an event entitled, The Drum. The opening will feature performances by the Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company, Grufolpawa, Flamenco Aparicio, Fiddle

Puppet Dancers, Lesole's Dance Project, Just Tap, and Nana Malaya

An interactive workshop series highlighting several dance forms, including Tango Bharatanatyam and Capoeira, will be held at the Atlas, followed by Dance Asia: Asia in Maskerade at the Kennedy Center. This performance will present Asian masks and their roles in folk dance, traditional ceremonies, rituals and traditions. The closing event, Move N' Groove, featuring hand dancing, will take place at Twelve Lounge at 1123 H Street, NE. Hand dancing is a form of swing dance that can be traced back to the 1920s, from Lindy Hop, to Jitterbug and to the 50's when D.C. developed its own version and named it "Hand Dance". It is characterized by gliding footwork and continuous hand connection/communication between the partners, hence its name.

Schedule of events:

Better academic outcomes - Teenagers and young adults of low socioeconomic (SES) status who have a history of in-depth arts involvement ("high

arts") show better academic outcomes than low-SES youth with less arts involvement ("low arts"). They earn better grades and have higher rates of college enrollment and attainment.

Low-SES students who had arts-rich experiences in high school were ten percent more likely to complete a high school calculus course than low-SES students with low arts exposure (33 percent versus 23 percent).

High-arts, low-SES students in the eighth grade were more likely to have planned to earn a bachelor's degree (74 percent) than were all students (71 percent) or low-arts, low-SES students (43 percent).

High-arts, low-SES students were 15 percent more likely to enroll in a highly or moderately selective four-year college than low-arts, low-SES students (41 percent versus 26 percent).

Students with access to the arts in high school were three times more likely than students who lacked those experiences to earn a bachelor's degree (17 percent versus five percent).

When it comes to participating in extracurricular activities in high school, high-arts, low-SES students are much more

likely also to take part in intramural and interscholastic sports, as well as academic honor societies, and school yearbook or newspaper - often at nearly twice or three times the rate of low-arts, low-SES students.

Higher career goals - There is a marked difference between the career aspirations of young adults with and without arts backgrounds.

High-arts, low-SES college students had the highest rates of choosing a major that aligns with a professional career, such as accounting, education, nursing, or social sciences (30 percent), compared to low-arts, low-SES students (14 percent) and the overall SES sample (22 percent).

Half of all low-SES adults with arts-rich backgrounds expected to work in a professional career (such as law, medicine, education, or management), compared to only 21 percent of low-arts, low-SES young adults.

More civically engaged - Young adults who had intensive arts experiences in high school

See DANCE, Page A7

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

An anti-racist Olympic rebel

AT EVERY event where the fist-raising, 1968 Olympic protester John Carlos speaks, he always remembers with respect the silver medalist on that platform, the great Australian sprinter Peter Norman.

On that fateful day, Norman wore a patch in solidarity with gold medal winner Tommie Smith and Carlos, and he paid a terrible price upon returning home. Even though Norman was white, or maybe because Norman was white, he became a pariah for daring to stand up for human rights.

As Carlos says, "Never forget that there was a time that Australia was as bad as South Africa in terms of its racial policies." He's right. At the time there were laws explicitly aimed to dehumanize the indigenous Australian--often referred to as the Aboriginal--population.

Today, it's still the third rail of Australian politics to claim pride and solidarity with the nation's indigenous people. Damien Hooper is finding this out the hard way. Hooper is an Olympic boxer making major waves both in and out of the ring. The light heavyweight is now a threat to win gold after dispatching highly touted U.S. boxer Marcus Browne.

He's also a threat to be sent home by the Australian Olympic Committee. Before fighting Browne, the 20-year-old's ring attire included a black T-shirt emblazoned with the Aboriginal flag. Hooper, who is of indigenous ancestry, knew that he was breaking the Olympics "no politics" rule, which states that you can represent only your country or approved corporate sponsors. (Worth noting that these corporate sponsors include politically neutral entities like Dow Chemical, British Petroleum and McDonalds.)

After the bout, Hooper had no regrets, saying:

What do you reckon? I'm Aboriginal. I'm representing my culture, not only my country but all my people as well. That's what I wanted to do and I'm happy I did it. I was just thinking about my family and that's what really matters to me. Look what it just did--it just made my whole performance a lot better with that whole support behind me. I'm not saying that at all that I don't care (about a possible sanction), I'm just saying that I'm very proud of what I did.

THE NEXT day, the International Olympic Committee told the Australian Olympic Committee that they better deal with Hooper or face the consequences. Practice for the team was halted in a very public fashion and Hooper was called in to meet with Australian Olympic chief Nick Green.

Green emerged from the meeting to inform the media that the boxer had "looked him in the eye" and was "extremely apologetic...He has learned a lesson and he will not do it again."

But what lesson is being learned? What is being taught not only to Hooper but also to Australia? The Aboriginal Flag is recognized as an official Australian flag, but it's not recognized by the International Olympic Committee. The IOC is doing nothing less than asserting its sovereignty over the Australian team, and this is drawing peals of protest at home.

A former world champion, the Australian/Aboriginal boxer, Anthony Mundine told the Sydney Morning Herald that Hooper "did the right thing."

"I take my hat off to him for that stance," Mundine said, "It takes a person with big balls to make a big stance like that. I've got his back, all day every day, because he's in the right."

Phil Cleary, an Australian politician and activist, said, "Unlike the imperial flags draped around tearful young athletes, the indigenous flag has no history of occupation of foreign territories. Sadly, it's the representation of stateless people, a people about whose history we dare not speak. Banning this flag is so pathetic it's funny."

The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples has also thrown their support behind Hooper "for being proud of who he is and where he came from."

The Congress recalled that Australian 400-meter gold-medalist Cathy Freeman held both flags following her victory at the 2000 Games in Sydney. Jody Broun, co-chair of the Congress said, "I'm not aware of any formal action by any Olympic body when images of Cathy Freeman were beamed around the world after her 400 meter gold medal win. Those images gave an immeasurable boost to Aboriginal people and told the next generation it is possible for them to also be the best in the world."

The degradation of Damien Hooper sends a very different message, one in line with what Peter Norman was forced to suffer in 1968. As Mark Twain said, "History doesn't repeat itself. But it does rhyme"

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Calendar of Events

August 23 - August 29, 2012

Brentwood Arts Exchange: Call for Proposals - Exhibitions

Date & Time: Through August 31
Description: Call for proposals/exhibition applications!

ELIGIBILITY

This call is open to all artists and curators who are 18 and older. There are no restrictions on media or residency.

APPLICATION

Each proposal should include:

- *An artist/cratorail statement that is no longer than one page.
- *A résumé or Curriculum Vitae
- *A CD / DVD containing 15-20 images of work samples; OR 2-5 segments of audio and/or video, each no longer than 5 minutes in duration; OR an appropriate combination of images, video, audio and web-based work.
- *A list of works/images that includes titles, media, size and dates created.
- *A SASE for the return of materials. Materials will not be returned unless a SASE with adequate postage is provided.

ABOUT THE BRENTWOOD ARTS EXCHANGE

The Brentwood Arts Exchange is The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's component of the Gateway Arts Center, a public-private partnership that serves as an anchor for Prince George's County Gateway Arts District. Dedicated to presenting and promoting the visual arts, the Brentwood Arts Exchange features a contemporary art gallery displaying diverse exhibitions, a Craft Showcase promoting local artisans, and a dynamic arts learning classroom/workshop. Since opening in March, 2010, the gallery has presented 16 exhibitions featuring regionally and nationally prominent artists as well as university and high school students, and has welcomed over 10,000 visitors. It is a place for people of all ages to meet, engage and learn about art, purchase locally made functional art, and explore new creative talents.

GUIDELINES FOR DIGITAL FILES

Effort will be made to review all submissions, regardless of format. However, please be aware that incompatible files may cause submissions to be rejected. Applicants are encouraged to format files as described below.

- No image files should be larger than 1MB.
- Image files should be formatted only as jpeg, tiff, or png.
- Video and audio files should be submitted as a DVD, or on a CD and formatted as Quicktime, Windows Media, .wav, or .mpeg files, as appropriate.
- Name each file: "last name" underscore "document" Example: jones_worksamplelist.pdf.
- Name image files similarly, but begin with a two-digit number that corresponds with the Work Sample List: Example: 01_jones_untitled.jpg
- Web-based work may be submitted as a URL listed in the work sample list. Web-based art is work of a nature such that it's only appropriate manifestation is online. A portfolio website that features audio/video art and/or still images is NOT web-based art.

EVALUATION

Proposals will be reviewed by the Brentwood Arts Exchange staff. Exhibitions will be selected based on the goals of presenting artwork of the highest quality and of engaging a broad range of audiences.

PUBLICITY

The Brentwood Arts Exchange provides full publicity for all exhibitions, including press releases, email announcements, printed cards, online and printed listings, and corollary events.

SHIPPING & INSTALLATION

When possible, the Brentwood Arts Exchange will provide transportation for artwork only within the Washington, DC region. We do not generally pay for shipping. Exhibitions will be installed and dismantled by M-NCPPC staff unless the nature of the work requires special assistance.

SALES & INSURANCE

The M-NCPPC will retain a 25% commission on all art works sold during or as a result of the exhibition. The M-NCPPC insures all consigned artworks while they are in the custody of the Brentwood Arts Exchange.

Mailing Address: Brentwood Arts Exchange

Attn: Exhibitions

3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood 20722

Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-446-6802; e-mail: phil.davis@pgparks.com or pgp-brentwood-arts@pgparks.com

Fantastic Fridays at Watkins Regional Park

Date & Time: Fridays, August 3, 10 17 & 24, 5:30-8:30 pm (weather permitting)

Description: Enjoy evenings of outdoor fun with friends and family. Take unlimited rides on the train and carousel, and rounds of miniature golf for one price per person. The outdoor Patio and surrounding grounds are a perfect place to bring and enjoy snacks or dinner! Beverages and snacks are available from the vending machines in the Refreshment Depot.

Please note: Advance tickets are not available; purchases are made on site each evening and for that date only. VISA, MasterCard and cash are accepted.

Tickets: Resident: \$5/person; Non-Resident \$6/person

Ages: All ages

Location: Watkins Regional Park

301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774

Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-218-6768

Dance Dance and All That Jazz

Date & Time: Friday, August 24, 5-7 pm

Description: Enjoy an afternoon of hand/line dancing, and chill with the smooth sounds of jazz featuring "Marcus Young and the Infinite Band." Also, special guest DJ Greg Peeler will be in the house. Space is limited.

Cost: FREE

Ages: TRCC Senior Card Holders Only

Location: Tucker Road Community Center

1771 Tucker Road, Fort Washington 20744

Contact: 301-248-4404; TTY 301-203-6030

EARTH TALK ... Outdoor light pollution

Dear EarthTalk:

Has anyone calculated the energy wasted at night by unnecessary lighting in and around buildings? What can we do to reduce our light footprint?

-- Bill Rehkamp,
via e-mail

Americans do squander a lot of electricity keeping things lit up at night while most of us sleep. This light blocks our view of the night sky and stars, creates glare hazards on roads, messes with our circadian sleep-wake rhythms, interrupts the patterns of nocturnal wildlife, and is by and large annoying. It also takes a financial toll: The federally funded National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO) reports that poorly-aimed, unshielded outdoor lights waste \$2 billion (17.4 billion kilowatt-hours) of energy in the U.S. each year.

NOAO has monitored outdoor lighting levels across the U.S. and beyond for the past six years through its GLOBE at Night program whereby citizen-scientists track nearby outdoor lighting levels over a two-week period beginning in late March and submit their observations to NOAO electronically. A simple star map provided by NOAO is all that participants need to track their slice of sky. "All it takes is a few minutes for a family to measure their night sky brightness by noting how many stars are missing from an easy-to-find constellation like Leo (in the northern hemisphere) or Crux (in the southern hemisphere)," says GLOBE at Night project director Connie Walker. "This tells us how much light is

directed upwards into the sky."

Over the last six annual campaigns, participants from 100-plus countries have contributed almost 70,000 measurements, giving project organizers a detailed picture of light pollution globally. Unfortunately, analysis of the data shows that participants have seen brighter skies and fewer stars over time, meaning that light pollution is a growing problem. The free and publicly-accessible data gathered by the project is not only useful for educational purposes but can also help inform planners and policymakers on decisions about increasing public safety, reducing energy consumption and even identifying parks and green spaces that can serve as "sky oases" where city dwellers can appreciate the night sky from a safe, dark place.

According to the McDonald Observatory's Dark Skies Initiative (DSI), the solution to light pollution is 90 percent education and 10 percent technology. "We can reclaim vast amounts of energy currently wasted inadvertently into the night sky...by using light fixtures that are shielded to reflect light down where it is needed, as well as using the smallest number of lights and lowest wattage bulbs necessary to effectively light an area," says DSI. Leading by example through the installation of downward-pointing outdoor light fixtures is a great place for home and building owners to start: "Once people see it in action, and understand its implications for cost savings and enhanced visibility, they are far more likely to adopt good lighting practices on their own." Another group commit-



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The federally funded national optical astronomy observatory reports that poorly-aimed, unshielded outdoor lights waste 17.4 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity in the U.S. each year.

ted to reducing light pollution, the International Dark-Sky Association, maintains a list of distributors that sell approved fixtures to prevent light pollution.

Some cities have instituted standards to limit outdoor night lighting to protect citizens against unwanted light (or "light trespass"). The International Dark-Sky Association has developed a set of model lighting ordinances that cities and towns can adopt and modify to suit their needs accordingly. Also, the U.S. Green Building Council has incorporated a credit for buildings seeking to reduce the amount of light trespass and sky glow through its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)

program.

CONTACTS: GLOBE At Night,

www.globeatnight.org;

Dark Skies Initiative,

www.mcdonaldobservatory.org/darkskies;

International Dark Sky Association,

www.darksky.org.

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Dance from A6

are more likely to show civic-minded behavior than young adults who did not, with comparatively high levels of volunteering, voting, and engagement with local or school politics. In many cases, this difference appears in both low-and high-SES groups.

High-arts, low-SES eighth graders were more likely to read a newspaper at least once a week (73 percent) compared to low-arts, low-SES students (44 percent) and the overall SES sample (66 percent).

Meat from A1

its intention to purchase up to \$100 million of pork products, up to \$10 million of catfish products, up to \$50 million in chicken products, and up to \$10 million of lamb products for federal food nutrition assistance programs, including food banks. Through the Emergency Surplus Removal Program, USDA can use Section 32 funds to purchase meat and poultry products to assist farmers and ranchers who have been affected by natural disasters. The pork, lamb and catfish purchases are based on analyses of current market conditions. A major factor affecting livestock producers is the value of feed, which is currently running high because of the drought.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) purchases a variety of high-quality food products each year to support the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Summer Food Service Program, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and the Emergency Food Assistance Program. USDA also makes emergency food purchases for distribution to victims of natural disasters. Government food experts work to ensure that all purchased food is healthful

and nutritious. Food items are required to be low in fat, sugar and sodium. The commodities must meet specified requirements and be certified to ensure quality. AMS purchases only products of 100 percent domestic origin.

Last week in Washington, President Obama convened his White House Rural Council to review Executive Branch response actions and to develop additional policy initiatives to assist drought-stricken Americans. Following the meeting, the White House announced a number of new measures the Administration is taking, including USDA's assistance for livestock and crop producers, the National Credit Union Administration's increased capacity for lending to customers including farmers, and the U.S. Department of Transportation's emergency waivers for federal truck weight regulations and hours of service requirements to drought-stricken communities. President Obama also stressed the need for the entire Administration to continue to look at further steps it can take to ease the pain of this historic drought.

Within the last month, USDA has opened the Conservation Reserve Program to emergency haying and grazing, has lowered the borrower interest rate for emergency loans, and has

of California Los Angeles, with Susan A. Dumais, Louisiana State University, and Gillian Hampden-Thompson, University of York, U.K. The report is one of the NEA's latest efforts to conduct and commission research that examines evidence of the value and impact of the arts in other domains of American life, such as education, health and well-being, community liveability, and economic prosperity. The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth is available at arts.gov.

About the National

worked with crop insurance companies to provide more flexibility to farmers. USDA has also announced the following:

Authorized \$16 million in existing funds from its Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to target states experiencing exceptional and extreme drought.

Authorized the transfer of \$14 million in unobligated program funds into the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) to help farmers and ranchers rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

Authorized haying and grazing of Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easement areas in drought-affected areas where haying and grazing is consistent with conservation of wildlife habitat and wetlands.

Lowered the reduction in the annual rental payment to producers on CRP acres used for emergency haying or grazing from 25 percent to 10 percent in 2012.

Simplified the Secretarial disaster designation process and reduced the time it takes to designate counties affected by disasters by 40 percent.

During the 2012 crop year, USDA has designated 1,628

unduplicated counties across 33 states as disaster areas—1,496 due to drought—making all qualified farm operators in the areas eligible for low-interest emergency loans. Visit www.usda.gov/drought for the latest information regarding USDA's drought response and assistance. The Obama Administration, with Agriculture Secretary Vilsack's leadership, has worked tirelessly to strengthen rural America, maintain a strong farm safety net, and create opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers. U.S. agriculture is currently experiencing one of its most productive periods in American history thanks to the productivity, resiliency, and resourcefulness of our producers. A strong farm safety net is important to sustain the success of American agriculture. USDA's crop insurance program currently insures 264 million acres, 1.14 million policies, and \$110 billion worth of liability on about 500,000 farms. In response to tighter financial markets, USDA has expanded the availability of farm credit, helping struggling farmers refinance loans. In the past 3 years, USDA provided 103,000 loans to family farmers totaling \$14.6 billion. Over 50 percent of the loans went to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.