

BUSINESS

Business Exchange

by William Reed



What Ever Happened to Black Political Power?

"Any time you throw your weight behind a political party... and that party can't keep promises that it made ... and you're dumb enough to walk around continuing to identify with that political party, you're not only a clump but a traitor to your race." — Malcolm X, 1964.

So what do you think Malcolm X would say to radio host Tom Joyner's "plea to the Blackman" blog statement: "Let's not deal with the facts right now ... let's just deal with our Blackness and pride — and loyalty. We have a chance to re-elect the first African-American president, and that's what we ought to be doing ... because he's a Black man."

Fifty years after Malcolm X preached "Black Power" and its concepts of economic and political equity, a Black family resides in the White House and people like Joyner want to keep them there without posing the ultimate question of: "What have you done for me lately?"

Malcolm X had a brilliant rap and great power and influence. His "by any means necessary" pledge to Black equality holds great sway in the "Black Power" psyche. For Joyner to be willing to overlook the fact that Black Americans have the lowest average income of any large racial group in the nation; are incarcerated at alarmingly high rates, and are still segregated and profiled just to get Obama re-elected is a disservice to Black political empowerment. Wouldn't Malcolm's rap on the subject be that African Americans "should take stock of what the Obamas being in the White House has accrued?"

At the basis of political struggle are economic interests. The economic interests of Black Americans are not mutually aligned with the Democrats, or the Republicans. In areas of social justice, economic development and public safety, the vast gulf between what is needed and what is provided from government demands re-evaluation. President Obama's tone toward Blacks' problems is for us to: "Stop whining." And Herman Cain says to the Black and poor that: "If you don't have a job and you're not rich, blame yourself!"

African Americans are a racial minority in a country where racism is a fact of life. In the current scheme of things, Black-oriented issues are regularly put on the back burner and it makes sense to form African-American interest groups who are willing to bring our issues to the forefront of American political discourse. Things can change for us if we make a point of consolidating our own political voting power. Black Americans can no longer complain about how we are treated without adopting tried and true methods to take political power. Identifying with Black culture is necessary. Being part of a 2012 Black voting bloc would be a bold move to put balance back in the American political landscape leading up to the presidential election.

Some Black Americans will like lemmings go the Joyner "Keep a Black Man President" route. In contrast, others will become forces that make their own political fortunes. The Black Political Party Media Fund is a Washington, D.C.-based 527 organization of note that is laying the foundation for a ticket of "Black Power" proponents to get on all 50 state ballots in 2012 and compete in a serious way with Barack and the Democrats and whomever the GOP nominates. For those able to think and act outside the "Mainstream Box," Black-oriented political pursuits can provide purpose, vision, and hope. The Black Power 527 is paying petition gatherers in several states and working on a website and strategy that enables millions of people to conduct a "virtual primary" in mid-2012. The Black Political Party Media Fund's projects include reaching out to Facebook and Twitter users to advocate "Black Power" objectives over their networks and in their various locales. The group seeks citizen journalists ready to advocate African Americans' interests and points of view. The organization is seeking paid staffers and volunteers to work in every state senate district in the country and on HBCU college campuses signing up "delegates" to a Black Party convention.

The Business Exchange is accepting inquiries at Busxchn@his.com.

Governor O'Malley, Senate President Miller and House Speaker Busch Extol Retention of 1,200 Jobs

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD (October 20, 2011) — Governor Martin O'Malley joined Maryland Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller and Maryland House Speaker Michael E. Busch to announce that the state's Legislative Policy Committee has approved a \$9.5 million conditional loan to Frederick-based Bechtel Power Corp. that will retain the company's operations and a minimum of 1,250 full-time jobs in the State through 2018. As a result of the loan, Bechtel Power — a global leader in the design and construction of energy sources and a subsidiary of California-based Bechtel Corp. — will consolidate its operations on its Frederick campus. In addition to preserving 1,250 high paying jobs, the deal will also support an additional 2,300 indirect jobs and generate more than \$11 million annually in state taxes.

"Our most important priority continues to be creating and retaining jobs — the kinds of high-wage, highly-skilled jobs that will sustain Maryland's economy for today and for decades to come," said Governor O'Malley. "Working with Bechtel's leadership to retain their operations here, we are preserving 1,250 jobs and ensuring that this innovative company continues to call Maryland home."

"The State of Maryland makes substantial investments in our public schools and institutions of higher education because we are committed to preparing our workforce for the challenges of the 21st century economy," said President Miller. "Bechtel recognizes that Maryland's workforce is among the most talented and innovative in the nation, and I am pleased they will continue to operate in Frederick County." "Our number one job is supporting private sector investment and building private

sector confidence in Maryland's economy," said Speaker Michael E. Busch. "The Sunny Day Fund was created for extraordinary economic development opportunities, like Bechtel. I am pleased that we can make this strategic investment in a growing area of our State to retain 1250 jobs."

"We are pleased to retain our Power business in Frederick. We first moved to Frederick in 1999 and have found it to be a welcome community to locate our Power business' headquarters," said Bill Dudley, Bechtel president and chief operating officer.

The loan funds will come from the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development's Economic Development Opportunities Program Fund, also known as the Sunny Day Fund. The approval of the Legislative Policy Committee is required before any funds can be disbursed.

Bechtel Corp. operates

through five global business units that specialize in civil infrastructure; power generation; communications and transmission; mining and metals; oil, gas and chemicals; and government services. Since its founding in 1898, Bechtel has worked on more than 22,000 projects in 140 countries on all seven continents. Bechtel's 65-year old Power Division has a portfolio of more than 400 fossil-fueled plants, 150 nuclear generating units, 50 waste-to-energy projects, 50 coal gasification projects, and a number of commercial applications for renewable energy.



FILE PHOTO

Governor Martin O'Malley

Energy from A1

This has reduced peak demand for electricity by more than 600 megawatts -- equivalent to the energy produced by three coal-powered plants running when energy demand is at its highest.

The state has also directed nearly \$2.7 million in federal stimulus funds to give home-

owners a 35 percent rebate on energy-efficient home improvements. So far, about 1,500 Maryland families have used the program, Woolf said, which can be applied to \$3,100 in improvements.

Nationwide, \$80 billion in federal stimulus money has been directed to energy efficiency, something Kathleen Hogan, deputy assistant secre-

tary for energy efficiency in the U.S. Department of Energy, called a down payment that must lead to lasting investment.

Indeed, the challenge for newly-recognized Maryland will be to keep up momentum in coming years when stimulus money runs out.

"They've done a lot to begin the programs, but they need to really ramp them up further,"

Court from A1

from the court's website.

The racial breakthrough in Virginia could - by example - open doors for Black newspapers across the country. Old rules, based on vestiges of racism remain in high courts and state houses around the nation.

The new Kinser guidelines, for the first time, allow a pool photographer for non-daily newspapers and one, as usual, for dailies. Previously, the court only allowed one pool photographer in the courtroom - and that photographer always came from a White-owned daily or The Associated Press.

For the Oct. 21 Powell investiture, Steve Helber, a veteran photographer for The Associated Press, was designated to provide pool coverage for dailies. The court notified the Free Press of the guideline change in an Oct. 6 email to Raymond H. Boone, Free Press editor/publisher. The email also notified Mr. Boone of the selection of Ms. Sellars to "serve as the pool photographer representing non-daily newspapers." The email was sent by Katya N. Herndon, the state court's director of legislative and public relations.

Sellars also represented the 200 newspaper members of the National Newspaper Publishers Association of which the Free Press is a member.

The ceremony took place inside the court's marbled and pillared courtroom that was

packed with more than 250 well wishers. They included U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott, Federal Judge Roger Gregory, Gov. Bob McDonnell, Attorney Gen. Ken Cuccinelli, Richmond Mayor Dwight C. Jones, state judges and legislators, family and friends. Another 250 people watched the 80-minute ceremony in overflow courtrooms that received a live feed.

A solemn Justice Powell raised her right hand and put her left hand on the Bible belonging to her late father, Milas Powell Jr., a Bible held by her mother, Mary C. Powell, and husband of 22 years, Alvin L. Dilworth, a Chesterfield County deputy sheriff.

Then her three children proudly helped the trailblazing justice into her black judicial robe.

The court's policy change stems from a Sept. 19 meeting between Chief Justice Kinser, Justice Powell and Boone, who was accompanied by Ms. Sellars and two other staff members - reporter Jeremy Lazarus and photographer Jerome Reid. At the rare face-to-face between the chief justice and the press, the chief justice also was accompanied by the court's executive secretary, Karl R. Hade, and Ms. Herndon.

During the cordial, hour-long meeting in the chief justice's office, the chief justice told Boone that the court was seeking to revamp its coverage policies to improve access to its ceremonies. She outlined the

two-photographer policy for ceremonial events in the high court's small courtroom during the meeting. At the time, she would only say the policy change was under consideration.

The Free Press challenged the court's ban on the newspaper's access to ceremonies as a violation of the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of the press. Boone also contended that the old policy promoted monopoly journalism.

The Free Press campaign began in 2003 when the state's first black chief justice, the late Leroy Rountree Hassell, rejected a pledge to the Free Press to cover his investiture after the pledge had tentatively been offered by the court's staff.

At the time, Justice Hassell did so to maintain the court's tradition of allowing only one press pool photographer at such events. "I want to keep everything as saying," he was quoted as saying. During his tenure that ended just before his death last winter, he refused to consider any change to the policy despite repeated Free Press editorials challenging his position.

The Free Press continued its campaign after Chief Justice Kinser took office Feb. 1, only to be rebuffed in seeking to cover the Sept. 1 investiture of new Justice Elizabeth A. McClannahan.

Chief Justice Kinser set up the meeting with Boone after he wrote her Aug. 30, protesting the Free Press' exclusion from

said Steve Nadel, executive director of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

In the new report, New York ranked third, followed by Oregon in fourth place. Vermont, Washington and Rhode Island tied for fifth place, and Minnesota and Connecticut tied for eighth place.

the McClannahan investiture and past ceremonies and urging her to lead the change in the court's press policy.

The Free Press also gained support for its position from the NNPA, Virginia Press Association and the Coalition for Open Government.

A standing ovation resounded as Justice Powell was escorted to the bench by three men she said played important roles in her career success: Norfolk native John Charles Thomas, the first black Supreme Court justice who is now a Richmond lawyer; Richmond state Sen. Henry L. Marsh III of Richmond and Chief Justice Hassell, also a Norfolk native.

In his remarks at the investiture, Gov. McDonnell, a Republican, hailed Justice Powell's arrival on the court as fresh milestone in the effort to develop "a more perfect union and provide more equal justice." He noted a black woman on the court could never have been imagined in 1623 when the original colonial court of appeals was created or in 1779 when its successor, the state Supreme Court, was established by the legislature. "What a tremendous day," he enthused.

He pointed out that Justice Powell was being formally installed, while across the street at the State Capitol, a building designed by slave-holding Thomas Jefferson and built by slaves, filming was going on for a movie about the "Great Emancipator," President Abraham Lincoln.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

"Paranormal Activity 3"

"PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3"
B-
Rated R for a little
sexuality, some harsh
profanity, general scariness
and stuff.
1 hr., 25 min.

happens, the girls' stepfather, Dennis (Christopher Nicholas Smith), was as diligent about videotaping weird phenomena as their future husbands would be.

Young Katie (Chloe Csengery) and Kristi (Jessica Tyler Brown) are about 8 and 6 when weird stuff starts happening in their normal, modern suburban home. Dennis accidentally captures something unusual on tape, and is further inspired by Kristi's reports of having an invisible friend named Toby. He sets up cameras in the girls' bedroom, plus one in the bedroom he shares with their mom, Julie (Lauren Bittner), who rolls her eyes at the whole thing but humors him.

This being 1988, video technology is expensive and not very sophisticated. (It is, curiously, in widescreen, though.) Dennis mounts a third camera on an oscillating fan so it can constantly move back and forth between the living room and kitchen. This eliminates the need for a fourth camera, and also gives the filmmakers a nifty device to creep us out with: the camera shows us the kitchen; pans slowly to the living room; pans slowly back again -- AND NOW THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE KITCHEN!

As in the previous installments, the special effects are low-tech and practical rather than computer-generated: hidden wires, sleight of hand, subtle editing tricks.

Christopher B. Landon (son



PHOTO COURTESY ROTTENTOMATOES

The Paranormal Activity franchise continues with this third outing from Paramount Pictures. Oren Peli and Jason Blum return to produce the highly secretive feature, with Catfish's directing duo of Henry Joost and Ariel Schulman taking on the helming duties. ~ Jeremy Wheeler, Rovi

of Michael Landon!) returns from co-writing part 2 to get sole credit on part 3. He's joined by an inspired choice of directors: the team of Henry Joost and Ariel Schulman, who made "Catfish," an alleged documentary that some people are convinced was fake. The "Paranormal Activity" films are the reverse of that -- nobody's actually trying to fool us into thinking this is real footage -- but Joost and Schulman's experience with straddling the line between fact and fiction comes in handy.

And they do a good enough

job executing the scares, both subtle and overt, that are the franchise's hallmarks. It's just that they're the same scares we've already seen, separated by the usual gaps of ordinary life that the series' detractors find so boring. Mounting a camera on a fan is neat and all, but it shouldn't be the primary innovation of your sequel. So even though the jump scares still got me, and even though the movie is goosebump-y enough to be recommendable, I suspect this is the last time it's going to work unless they get some new ideas.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Out of Exile: On Visiting "Occupy USA" with Dr. John Carlos

When fist-raising 1968 Olympian Dr. John Carlos and I wrote his memoir, *The John Carlos Story: The Sports Moment That Changed the World*, we didn't exactly expect the publishing date to coincide with a mass national protest movement for economic and social justice. I've now heard about 100 variations of the following joke: "It was really smart of your publisher to plan this whole 'occupy' movement with your book release." It's an obvious comment, given that Dr. Carlos and I have made sure to visit every occupy encampment we can on our national book tour. It's also been an incredible gift: not necessarily to book sales, but to John Carlos and in turn, I would argue, to the movement as well.

When John Carlos raised his fist at those Olympic games, he knew the price would be high. But I know he didn't expect the pound-of-flesh extracted to be so brutal. He couldn't find work for years. Many dear friends walked out of his life. The FBI made it a point to harass him and his family. His children were bullied by teachers in school. Finally, his first wife, Kim, took her own life in 1977.

For years, as John said to me, even when their gesture was remembered with respect instead of derision, he felt like an Olympian in exile. As he said to me in 2003, "I don't feel embraced, I feel like a survivor, like I survived cancer. It's like if you are sick and no one wants to be around you, and when you're well everyone who thought you would go down for good doesn't even want to make eye contact. It was almost like we were on a deserted island. That's where Tommy Smith and John Carlos were. But we survived." Visiting the occupy sites has allowed John to see that he did a hell of a lot more than "survive." He's inspired people born decades after his gesture even occurred to stand up and be bold. He's inspired people ready to hear that he wasn't just part of a "moment" but an actual human rights "movement", built in the heart of the global athletic leviathan known as the Olympic games.

I think the presence of John Carlos has been important for the occupy movement as well. It lends a sense of connectivity to struggles-past and the moral authority of a person who suffered but tells young people, "I don't regret what I did for one solitary instant because it's about seizing your moment in time and not regretting that when you were called upon to stand up, you didn't do it. Trust me; those who didn't stand up in 1968 regret it today." He also drew a direct line from the medal stand to Zuccotti Park at one of the occupy encampments, saying, "There was no more important place to stand up in 1968 than the Olympic medal stage. And, given the economic injustice in the world, there is no more important place today to stand up than Wall Street."

The book as well has a message markedly different from typical sports memoirs, which are normally an exercise in: "Look how awesome I am. You can now proceed to genuflect." Instead its thesis is that not everyone can run 100 yards in under nine seconds. But anyone can lead a committed life dedicated to principles of social justice. This is certainly a special moment in our collective people's history. It's a magical thing to see someone who was part of the great-struggles-past, find a home in the struggles of our present.

Hopefully we'll both see you soon at an encampment near you. And hopefully, we will have more "Jocks for Justice" raising their fists at our side.

Scaffolding Coming Off Statehouse Dome

By EMAUN KASHFIPOUR
Capital News Service

largest in the country that is made entirely of wood, according to the Maryland State House website.

ANNAPOLIS -- The scaffolding that has concealed the towering dome on top of the State House since the legislative session ended last April will be taken down in the coming weeks.

The dome has been covered up for the past several months so workers could scrape the flaking paint and give it a brand new coat.

"The dome has, from time to time, over the course of years, because it was done in a latex-based paint, had started to fail, had started to flake," said Sam Cook, director of the Department of General Services, which oversees the dome's maintenance. "We're removing all that flaking paint where everything failed at and getting a good base down and putting a good coat of oil-based paint on there."

This is the third State House to be erected on State Circle and was completed toward the end of the 18th century. The dome is the

It is the only state capitol to have served as the nation's capitol building. The Continental Congress met in the Old Senate Chamber from November 1783 to August 1784.

During that time, George Washington resigned his commission as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army before Congress. Also, the official end to the Revolutionary War was marked with the ratification of the Treaty of Paris.

Joseph Clark, the State House's architect, constructed the dome so that there would be eight different views of Annapolis from atop its balcony. Thomas Jefferson and James Madison spent a few hours on the balcony in September 1790 with a couple of friends.

After the maintenance is done, the dome is supposed to look like it did before the scaffolding went up, just newer.

Final Eight HBCU Bands Chosen for 10th Annual Honda Battle of the Bands

(BLACK PRWIRE) (October, 2011) TORRANCE, Calif.-- The nations marching band fans have spoken, and have chosen the top eight marching bands at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for the 2012 Honda Battle of the Bands.

Now marking 10 years of celebrating the heritage, showmanship and scholarship of HBCU bands, the Honda Battle of the Bands will bring The Homecoming to the Georgia Dome in Atlanta for the Invitational Showcase, Saturday, January 28, 2012.

Following are the HBCU marching bands that will earn a \$20,000 grant for their music education programs and an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2012 Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase:

Albany State University
Marching Rams Show Band
(Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference)

Bethune Cookman University
Marching Wildcats (Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference)

Jackson State University
Sonic Boom of the South
(Southwestern Athletic Conference)

Prairie View A&M University
Marching Storm (Southwestern Athletic Conference)

South Carolina State University
Marching 101 (Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference)

Tennessee State University
Aristocrat of Bands
(Independent)

Virginia State University
Marching Trojan Explosion

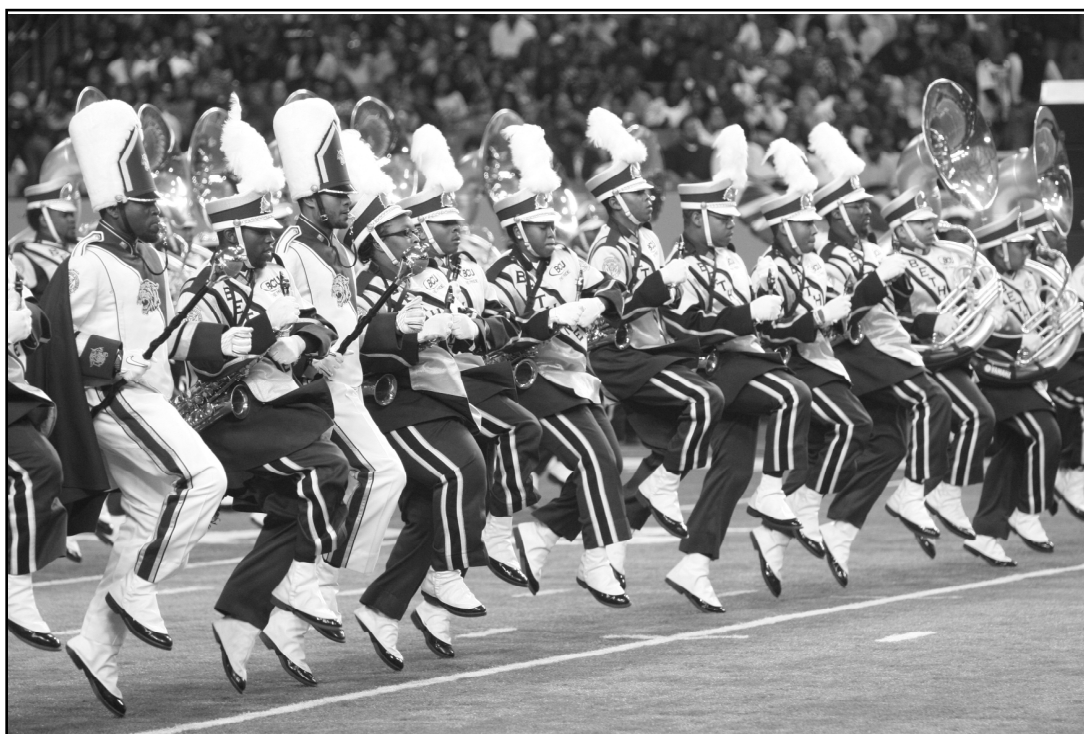


PHOTO BY BUSINESS WIRE.

The "Marching Wildcats" of Bethune-Cookman University go airborne briefly as part of their high-stepping performance at the 2011 Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase in Atlanta this past January. BCU and seven other top Historically Black College and University (HBCU) marching bands have officially earned selection to the 2012 Showcase, taking place January 28th at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

(Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association)

Winston-Salem State University
University Red Sea of Sound
(Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association)

For the eight winning bands, the journey to the Invitational Showcase involved months of practice and training, all in preparation for their Georgia Dome performances, where each band will have 12 dazzling minutes to showcase the musical excellence, distinctive style and superior showmanship that earned them a place in the 2012 Invitational

Showcase. The Showcase bands are chosen via online voting, with votes by fans, students and alumni accounting for one-third of the selection criteria, and band directors and school presidents accounting for the balance of the selection process.

This year's event theme, The Homecoming, reflects on the 10th anniversary of the Honda Battle of the Bands and calls for all HBCU marching band alumni, current HBCU students and the many fans of the event to meet in Atlanta for this special anniversary showcase event. The homecoming theme also high-

lights the importance of marching band culture to black college homecoming celebrations

We are excited to be celebrating 10 years of the Honda Battle of the Bands as we continue to support the music education programs of our nation's HBCUs, said Marc Burt, senior manager, Office of Inclusion and Diversity for American Honda. We hope that Black college marching band fans and alumni will attend this year's Invitational Showcase as we anticipate a great community turnout and even greater performances by the top eight HBCU marching bands.

Calendar of Events

November 3 - November 9, 2011

Blankets of Love: Coloring Our Dreams

Date and Time: Monday, October 3-Monday, December 5
Description: Oakcrest Community Center is sponsoring a blanket drive to benefit two assisted living facilities: Forestville Health & Rehabilitation Center and Heartfield Assistant Living Center in Bowie.

The facility is also collecting coloring books, crayons, and soothing sounds CD's to benefit the Prince Georges County Pediatric Unit and the Sub Unit of Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital.

Ages: All ages
Location: *Oakcrest Community Center*
1300 Capitol Heights Blvd., Capitol Heights 20743
Contact: (301) 736-5355; TTY 301-218-6768

Line Dancing at Seat Pleasant

Date & Time: Beginning November 5, Saturdays, 11:30 am-1 pm
Description: Here's a way to lose weight, release stress, build stamina and start a healthy life style -- all of this while having fun with Ms. Hattie Frazier. Wear comfortable shoes, bring a hand towel and get ready to dance your stress away.

Cost: Resident \$20; Non-Resident \$28; \$6/drop-in fee
Ages: 18 & up
Location: *Seat Pleasant Activity Center*
5720 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant 20743
Contact: 301-773-6685; TTY 301-218-6768
SMARTlink # 692464

National Harbor Farmers Market

Date & Time: Saturdays through November 5, 10 am-2 pm
Description: National Harbor Farmers Market
Date & Time: Saturdays through November 5, 10 am-2 pm
Description: Support local farmers! Call to find out about its selection of fruits, vegetables, organic food, local specialties and crafts. Read more about local farmer's markets.

Location: American Way (Waterfront & Fleet Streets), Oxon Hill 20744
Contact: 301-248-8079 (Phyllicia Hatton)
www.americanmarketnh.com
Support local farmers! Call to find out about its selection of fruits, vegetables, organic food, local specialties and crafts. Read more about local farmer's markets.
Location: *American Way (Waterfront & Fleet Streets), Oxon Hill 20744*
Contact: 301-248-8079 (Phyllicia Hatton)
www.americanmarketnh.com

Riverdale Park Farmers Market

Date & Time: Thursdays through November 17, 3-7 pm
Description: Support local farmers! Call to find out about its selection of fruits, vegetables, organic food, local specialties and crafts. FMNP Checks (WIC & Senior) & FVC accepted. Read more about local farmers markets.

Location: *Queensbury Road, Riverdale park 20737 (MARC station parking lot)*
Contact: 301-332-6258 (Jim Coleman)

PUBLIC PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES 2011-2012 DANCE SEASON

CHEVERLY, MD—The Publick Playhouse 2011-2012 season includes national and international dance performances, beginning with The Philadelphia Dance Company's PHILADANCO on Friday, November 18 at 8 pm, in a leggy jet-propelled performance with soul that celebrates the company's 40th anniversary. On Friday, January 6, at 8 pm, the Playhouse hosts the international tour of the Russian National Ballet Theatre in a classical full-length presentation of "Cinderella" that is full of humor and features a large Russian company trained in the Bolshoi and Kirov traditions.

Saturday, February 4 at 8 pm, Nimbaya! Women Master Drummers and Dancers of Guinea make the Playhouse the only Washington area stop on their first American tour in several years. Formerly called "Amazones", these exciting, energetic artists are celebrated throughout Africa for breaking social barriers to women's independence by performing the dances and playing the instruments that for centuries were restricted to men.

In April, Dallas Black Dance Theatre returns for their annual Playhouse residency with a new program of feisty, fearless and fiery modern dance performances on Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28 at 8 pm and Sunday, April 29 at 4 pm.

Tickets to each of the four dance companies in this series are \$20, or \$15/seniors, students, DancePass, and groups of 15 or more. There's also an advance ticket savings of half price for one dance company when buying all four prior to November 18.

Area dancers are also part of the season. On Sunday, February 26, at 4 pm, the annual liturgical dance festival PRAISE! features gospel singer Cora Harvey Armstrong of Richmond and exceptional dance troupes from area churches. Saturday, March 17 at 8 pm, the 10th annual World Dance Showcase highlights the broad cultural richness and talent found in our nation's capitol. Tickets for each of these programs are \$12; \$10/seniors and students.

Young dancers are on stage at Bust a Move with Café Groove on Friday, March 2 from 7-10pm, when teens battle for cash prizes and the title of "Prince George's Best Dance Crew", with teen-only admission for \$3. And Sunday, March 4, at 4 pm, the Love 2 Dance Teen Showcase presents hot talent from area schools and studios. Tickets: \$12; \$10/seniors and students

Dance Classes with visiting artists include Nimbaya! workshops on Saturday, February 4, with a Drum Workshop at 10 am and an African Dance Workshop at 12 noon for drummers and dancers age 13 and up; fee: \$15/class. On April 25 and 26 from 7:30-9 pm Dallas Black Dance Theatre offers their annual Master Classes in Modern Dance for advanced dancers on Wednesday, and Liturgical Dance Workshop for intermediate and advanced dancers on Thursday; fee \$15/class or observer. Also, Big Girls Dance Workshops are being held during National Fitness Month, with an African dance workshop on Tuesday, May 8 from 6:30-8 pm, and a Belly Dance Workshop on Thursday, May 10 from 6:30-8 pm; free/one workshop per person, with advance registration required.

The Playhouse is a facility of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Department of Recreation, Arts and Cultural Heritage Division.

For more information, call 301-277-1710 or visit arts.pgarks.com

EARTH TALK ... "Which light bulbs are the greenest?"

Dear EarthTalk:

What are the greenest light bulbs to use? I hear there has been a lot of backlash against compact fluorescents because they contain mercury.

-- Peter Roscoe,
Hershey, PA

Just a decade ago, incandescent bulbs were just about the only game in town, despite their inefficient use of electricity to generate light and their primitive technology that had not changed since being invented some 125 years ago. But now that is all changing fast, with phase-outs of incandescents going on in Australia, Brazil, Venezuela, Switzerland and the European Union, with Argentina, Russia, Canada and the U.S. following suit shortly. The U.S. passed legislation in 2007 to increase the efficiency of light bulbs sold in the U.S. by 25 percent or more by 2014, and then by as much as 60 percent more by 2020.

For decades, those concerned with energy savings have been touting the benefits of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) over incandescents. CFLs use only one-fifth of the electricity of incandescents to generate the same amount of light, and they can last six to 10 times longer. But CFLs' cooler color and inability to be dimmed have made them less desirable. Another hindrance to the widespread adoption of CFLs has been their higher cost (though most consumers would save plenty in energy costs over the life of a bulb). Also, CFLs contain mercury, a dangerous neurotoxin that is released when the bulbs break. And once CFLs do burn out they must be disposed of properly to avoid releasing mercury into the environment.



CREDIT: GEOFFREY LANDIS, WIKIPEDIA

As the future gets dimmer for traditional incandescent light bulbs, and compact fluorescents (CFLs) fall out of favor due to their toxic mercury component, light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, are beginning to come on strong. LEDs, which are clusters of small bulbs that come in many shapes and sizes, last five times longer than CFLs and 40 times longer than incandescents and use much less energy.

Given the issues with CFLs, LEDs (short for light emitting diodes) are beginning to come on strong. These highly efficient bulbs don't generate heat like incandescents (which helps to keep air conditioning costs down as well) and can last five times longer than CFLs and 40 times longer than incandescents. Tiny LED bulbs have been around for years in specialized applications (such as stadium scoreboards), but lighting engineers got the idea to cluster them and use reflective casings to harness and concentrate their light for residential use. In recognition of the LED's potential, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) set up a special "solid-state" (LED) lighting R&D program to hasten the advance of the technology.

In comparing the total cost to run three different types of 60-watt equivalent bulbs for 50,000 hours (factoring in the cost of the both bulbs and electricity), the EarthEasy website

found that LEDs would cost \$95.95, CFLs \$159.75 and incandescents \$652.50. The 42 incandescent bulbs tested used up to 3,000 kilowatt hours of electricity compared to 700 and 300 for CFLs and LEDs respectively. However, despite the savings most consumers are loath to spend \$35 and up for an LED bulb (even though it will save more than \$500 in the long run) when a traditional incandescent bulb right next to it on the shelf costs \$1.

There are other newer technologies in the works. Seattle-based Vu1 now sells highly efficient bulbs based on its Electron Stimulated Luminescence (ESL) technology, whereby accelerated electrons stimulate a phosphor coating on the inside of the bulb, making the surface glow. One of Vu1's 65-watt equivalent bulbs retails for under \$20 and uses a similar amount of energy as an equivalent CFL. And incandescents aren't out of the

efficient lighting race altogether just yet. Top bulb makers recently released new versions that use as much as a third less electricity to operate (complying with 2012's new federal standards) and are promising newer models still that will run on even less energy.

CONTACTS: DOE Solid-State Lighting Program, www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/ssl/; EarthEasy, www.eartheasy.com/; Vu1 Corporation, www.vu1corporation.com. EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Subscribe: www.emagazine.com/subscribe; Free Trial Issue: www.emagazine.com/trial.

National Health Policy Organization Hosts Annual Reception and Unsung Hero Awards Event

Seat Pleasant, October, 2011 – Eugene W. Grant, mayor of Seat Pleasant announced that The National Community-Based Organization Network (NCBON), will co-host its annual reception this year with the Seat Pleasant-University of Maryland Health Partnership, University of Maryland Prevention Research Center and the Women's Collective. The event co-sponsors are the Mayor's office of the City of Seat Pleasant (A City of Excellence), Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association, Community-Based Public Health Caucus, University of Maryland School of Public Health, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission Department of Park & Recreation in Prince George's County. The event collaborators are CHIPPD Section of APHA,

Vision Care Section of APHA, Georgetown-Howard University CTS Program, Howard University Community Engagement Research Core and the Prince George's County Health Department.

This event is a joint Fall Festival and 6th Annual Community Reception and part of the American Public Health Association's annual meeting that will take place in Washington, DC from October 29 – November 02, 2011 at the Washington, DC Convention Center.

The NCBON brings community organizations and their members into a national network to enhance capacities to 1) partner with universities/agencies within their neighborhoods and broader communities to promote health; and 2) to act collectively to influence decision making and policy

at a national level. NCBON is part of the Community-Based Public Health Caucus of the American Public Health Association (APHA).

The National Community-Based Organization Network will honor Community-Based Public Health Heroes with its "2011 Unsung Heroes" and Lucille Webb Awards in recognizing and celebrating the incredible yet often unheralded, public health work of community leaders everywhere, paying special attention to Maryland and DC-area Community-Based Organizations. Grant stated, "I am pleased that two of the award recipients come out of A City of Excellence." He went on to say, "Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence continues to gain national attention for the excellent work we do at the grassroots level."

The following Community-Based Organizations have been identified to receive the "2011 Unsung Heroes" and Lucille Webb Awards, from the City of Seat Pleasant-University of Maryland Health Partnership are as follows:

Bridging Resources in Communities, Inc (BRIC); Casa de Maryland; Deamonte Driver Dental Project/Robert T. Freeman Dental Society; End Time Harvest Ministries, Inc. (ETHM); Gap Busters Learning Center; Heart to Hand, Inc.; Mosaica: The Center for Nonprofit Development and Pluralism; Ophelia Egypt Center of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington; Patriots Technology Training Center; Seat Pleasant-University of Maryland Health Partnership (SP-UMHP); Sexually Transmitted Infection Community Coalition (STICC).

Rosecroft from A1

tained if the state does not allow slot machines at the track.

"Profitability of stand-alone racetracks is not a sure thing," said Karen Bailey, a spokeswoman for the company.

But Penn National Gaming faces an uphill battle in getting slots to Rosecroft.

Maryland has already approved installing slot machines in five other locations in the state -- the maximum number allowed by a 2008 referendum -- meaning Marylanders would have vote again to bring slots to Rosecroft.

Prince George's County leaders are strongly opposed to the move. Local clergy don't want slot machines in the county and the Prince George's County Council will soon consider a bill that would ban slot machines in the county.

"I don't think slots are real economic development," said

Councilman Eric Olson, D-College Park, who proposed the bill. "They take in a lot more money than they give out and we have record foreclosures and people in very vulnerable economic conditions."

Despite the opposition, Bailey said pairing horse racing and slots has proved to be the most successful, sustainable business model to keep racetracks afloat. She pointed to racetracks in West Virginia and Pennsylvania that have slots as proof of that success.

She said slot machines would help the track by attracting more gamblers and providing additional revenue that would increase the purse amount for each race. That would bring better horses, in turn attracting more bettors to the track, she said.

However, other racing industry leaders said slot machines have also negatively affected the popularity of horse racing by providing a gambling

alternative and taking the focus off the sport.

"You've got (betting on) football, baseball, poker, slot machines ... the amount of entertainment that is available has expanded so much in the past 30 years," said J. Michael Hopkins, the executive director of the Maryland Racing Commission.

Stuart Pittman, the president of the Maryland Horse Council, said the push for slot machines at racetracks has hurt the overall quality of horse racing in the state.

"Owners have worked so hard to lobby for slots that they didn't focus on marketing their product," Pittman said.

Other industry leaders questioned the degree to which slot machines help racetracks. A 2008 study conducted by the Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute, a non-partisan research group, found that proponents of slots had overstated the ability of slots to entice

gamblers to bet on races.

"States that had implemented (racetracks and slots) did bring in customers to play slot machines, but typically did not do anything to bring in people to gamble on horse racing," Neil Bergsman, head of the institute, said.

Whether slot machines make it to Rosecroft, the races return at a time when industry leaders are trying to create a long-term strategy for all of the tracks in Maryland -- one that does not rely on revenue from slots.

The Maryland General Assembly created a task force representing track owners, breeders and horsemen earlier this year to produce a long-term plan for sustaining the industry that does not involve slot machines. The report is due on Dec. 1.

Currently only one racetrack in the state, Ocean Downs in Berlin, has live horse racing and slot machines.

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The American Red Cross, Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region is honoring those who have struggled with this disease with "Walls of Hope" at all blood drives and donor centers throughout the month of October. Participants may write a small card in honor of a cancer patient to post on the Wall Of Hope. Call 1-800-RED

CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to schedule a life-saving donation appointment. Platelet donors can call 1-800-272-2123 to schedule an appointment.

Blood is often used to treat those undergoing treatment for all types of cancer, including breast cancer. Cancer treatments such as chemotherapy can kill red blood cells and platelets, and these patients rely on blood transfusions throughout their treatment to remain strong and recover.

Child Watch from A4

neighboring counties, undoubtedly struggling like the Nailors, are in their group, exchanging household items, furniture, toys, clothes, and even food like fresh eggs... "Amanda and Emily are young, so they don't realize how poor we are," Sarah told Cass. "But when they get older" She did not finish the sentence."

Other parts of Rep. Schakowsky's proposal would benefit families like the Nailors. John, as a computer technician, might qualify for one of the 750,000 new jobs the bill would create through the Community Corps. This group of workers, like the New Deal's Civilian Conservation Corps, would address community blight, including foreclosure and disaster-affected areas, rural conservation work, recycling, and reclamation of reusable materials, among many other projects. Many of these workers have children and would once again be able to put food on the table and a roof over their heads.

Emily and her sister Amanda and many children like them could benefit from the work of the School Improvement Corps, which would create 650,000 new jobs to create "healthier, safer, and more energy-efficient teaching and learning environments" for the 14 million chil-

dren pre-K-12 who attend deteriorating public schools. About a third of the 80,000 schools in this country need extensive repairs or replacement and about two-thirds have troublesome environmental conditions. Walls filled with asbestos, walls and water laced with lead, and leaking underground storage tanks polluting the playgrounds are just some of the devastating conditions our precious children face every day. This bill would put boots on the ground to ensure our children have safe spaces in which to learn.

American communities would be made stronger through the Park Improvement Corps, which would create 100,000 jobs in conservation projects on public lands for youth 16 to 25 years old, and the Student Jobs Corps which would create 250,000 part-time, work study jobs for eligible college students. The Neighborhood Heroes Corps would provide a chance for states to hire 40,000 police officers and 12,000 firefighters. The Health Corps would provide grants to hire at least 40,000 health care providers including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, and health care workers to expand access in underserved rural and urban areas.

All of this will cost money,

of course, but it's an investment we cannot afford not to make. It's long past time for millionaires and billionaires and corporations who have benefited from tax breaks and corporate loopholes and government subsidies to contribute to rebuilding our nation's economy. The investments in the Schakowsky bill make common sense to many Americans, economic sense for our country, and moral sense for the millions of poor children and families who have fallen into poverty who desperately want to find jobs that will help them build a better future for their children. Jobs, jobs, jobs. When will enough of our leaders get it? When we citizens make enough noise to make them hear and act.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org.

Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post.