

THE GEORGETOWN CURRENT

HELP FOR HAITI



Bill Petros/The Current

Joe Montour, lead vocalist for Haitian dance band Tabou Combo, performs during Friday evening's tribute to Haiti at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage. The musical benefit also featured the Georgetown University Let Freedom Ring Celebration Choir.

Arts magnet will stay put for now

■ **Ellington:** Reports spurred anxiety about possible move

By **JESSICA GOULD**
Current Staff Writer

Duke Ellington School of the Arts will stay put for now, D.C. Public Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee assured Ellington community members last week.

"She confirmed that Ellington

would not be moving anytime in the foreseeable future," said principal Rory Pullens, who attended a meeting with Rhee and members of the school's leadership Friday.

Ellington, located at 35th and R streets NW, is an arts magnet operated through a partnership with George Washington University and the Kennedy Center. Its students are selected based on an application and audition.

According to Pullens, Rhee

acknowledged that the city had looked into the possibility of a new and improved facility for Ellington. But at this time, the District does not have the approximately \$80 million it would take to build it, Rhee told him.

Going forward, Pullens said, Rhee promised that the Ellington community would be involved in any planning process related to the arts magnet's future, and that the

See **Ellington**/Page 5

City speeds up Guy Mason timetable

By **ELIZABETH WIENER**
Current Staff Writer

The long-planned renovation of the Guy Mason Recreation Center will start later than expected — but finish ahead of schedule, Mayor Adrian Fenty announced Monday on the steps of the century-old facility in Glover Park.

Surrounded by community members and staff from the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization, which recently took on the \$4.7 million job, Fenty said groundbreaking is now set for June 2010 and completion for February 2011. An earlier schedule had called for starting the construction this March and finishing it in May 2011.

The shuffled schedule will allow popular pottery, bridge, photography and other classes to continue through this spring. After that, Guy Mason's classes will relocate temporarily to the recreation department's

See **Renovation**/Page 30



Matt Petros/The Current

Agency heads Jesus Aguirre and Allen Lew join Mayor Adrian Fenty for Monday's announcement that work at Guy Mason will start in June.

City aims to fold up snafu over strollers

By **CAROL BUCKLEY**
Current Staff Writer

A mix-up over city policy led to infuriated parents and surprised transportation officials recently after a private contractor instructed DC Circulator drivers to ban unfolded strollers on the popular red buses.

Without city approval, First Transit, the contractor that supplies Circulator bus drivers, sent a notice to all of its drivers, according to Transportation Department spokesperson John Lisle. The First Transit notice told drivers to inform bus riders that children must be removed from strollers before boarding, and that the strollers must be folded up and placed out of the way.

A First Transit spokesperson said that the company's policy is an "industry-accepted practice" and a "safety standard."



Bill Petros/The Current

The Transportation Department is now developing a flexible stroller policy for Circulator buses.

But the contractor's rule "is not our policy," said Lisle. The city agency in fact has no rules about strollers, but officials are now developing a policy that "takes flexibility into account," he said.

Moving forward, according to the First Transit spokesperson, the company will "work with the client to determine whether [the hold-and-stow approach] is the

See **Strollers**/Page 18

EastBanc gets ANC backing for West End development

By **CAROL BUCKLEY**
Current Staff Writer

The Foggy Bottom-West End advisory neighborhood commission voted unanimously last week to support D.C.-based developer EastBanc in its bid to redevelop a West End parcel now home to three city-owned buildings.

Although a city representative said he is not yet certain when officials will announce their preferred project, the vote marks the closest EastBanc has come to acquiring the site since 2007, when a quick sale skirted city protocols and sparked a

neighborhood outcry. The deal was canceled, and the city issued a request for proposals last summer.

But all that seemed water under the bridge last week as commissioners praised aspects of the EastBanc proposal.

The development company, whose founder Anthony Lanier appeared at Wednesday's meeting, has proposed a 110-foot, 153-unit condominium building above a single-story West End Neighborhood Library on Square 37, bounded by 23rd, 24th and L streets and an alley.

EastBanc, unlike rival bidder See **West End**/Page 18

NEWS

■ **School board taps Ward 4 representative as president.** Page 3
■ **Janney design passes final stage of review.** Page 3



SPORTS

■ **Field beats PVAC rival Burke in final seconds.** Page 9
■ **St. John's boys keep pace in competitive WCAC.** Page 9



PASSAGES

■ **Local lawyer brings magician moonlighting gig to D.C.** Page 11
■ **Group offers tips on conserving energy in old houses.** Page 11



INDEX

Calendar/20	Police Report/8
Classifieds/29	Real Estate/15
District Digest/4	School Dispatches/12
Exhibits/24	Service Directory/25
In Your Neighborhood/16	Sports/9
Opinion/6	Theater/24
Passages/11	Week Ahead/3