



# CONGRESS BALKS AT BAILOUT PLAN

Public backlash slows bill's momentum

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# The Examiner

Washington

76° 55°



Mostly sunny and  
seasonable. PAGE 20

WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

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# Commuter crunch: 2nd-worst in U.S.

Local drivers face half-hour-plus trips to work P. 4



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## GOT BELLY FAT?

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## WHAT'S MAKING NEWS

### Man pleads guilty to stealing \$400K from nonprofit

A 63-year-old Arlington man pleaded guilty Tuesday to defrauding a D.C. nonprofit organization out of more than \$400,000, federal prosecutors said.

Earl Staubs, the former finance director for the Center for Applied Linguistics, faces 30 to 37 months of prison, according to federal guidelines, prosecutors said.

Staubs admitted in court that he improperly directed money from checks belonging

to CAL into another bank account in "off the book" transactions. Staubs used a check endorser from the desk of another CAL employee to endorse and deposit the checks at a D.C. bank. As a result of Staubs' actions, CAL suffered losses of approximately \$438,098. Staubs is currently serving a state prison sentence in Virginia for a separate embezzlement scheme. — *Scott McCabe*

## INFORMATION

## PRINCE GEORGE'S

# Husband of Customs analyst charged with killing his wife



By Scott McCabe  
*Examiner Staff Writer*

The husband of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection analyst was charged in her May 2008 death, according to Prince George's County police.

Spencer Ellsworth Chase, 48, was charged with first-degree murder in the strangulation of his wife, 47-year-old Antoinette Renee Chase, police said. He was arrested Monday and held in jail without bond.

On May 20, police responded to a home in the 3000 block of Ladova Way in Springdale after Spencer Chase reported that his wife was unconscious. Authorities found Antoinette Chase lying on her

kitchen floor and transported her to an area hospital. She was pronounced dead a short time later.

The next day, the Maryland Medical Examiner's Office determined that her death was a homicide.

Detectives did not make an immediate arrest because they wanted to conduct a thorough investigation before presenting the case to the state's attorney's office, said police spokesman Cpl. Clinton Copeland.

"We would rather be cautious and accurate than to rush in and find mistakes that could possibly hurt our case," Copeland said.

Eight months before her death, Spencer Chase, of the 1700 block of Corcoran Street, was arrested on domestic violence charges. The

case was dismissed at Mrs. Chase's request, according to court documents.

At the border patrol agency, Antoinette Renee Chase had worked as a management and program analyst with the office of International Affairs and Trade Relations. Before that, her federal career spanned three decades, which began with the U.S. Air Force and included the U.S. Army, Small Business Administration and Department of Justice.

Her civil service work was recognized on several occasions with performance awards and a special act award, her office said. She was a graduate of Howard University and Eastern High School.

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### Police need help finding dead man's next of kin

District of Columbia police need the public's help in finding the next of kin of a man found dead on the 900 block of M Street, SE on Sept. 5.

Police said they do not believe there was any foul play, but are awaiting the results of an autopsy. Police also believe they have determined his identity, but have not been able to locate any family.

The man, 39, is black, about 5-feet-8 inches tall and weighs about 140 pounds. Police said he often frequented the area of Interstate 295 and 8th Street SE.

Anyone with information should call 202-727-9099. — *Freeman Klopott*

## THE BLOTTER

### Skydiving crash kills one, leaves second injured

A D.C. skydiver was killed in a jumping accident that also left a second diver injured near Charlottesville, authorities said.

Robert Kotenko, 29, of Washington, and Francis Wooten III, 54, of Ruckersville, got their parachutes tangled several hundred feet in the air, sending both into a free fall, police said. Both men were taken to a hospital where Wooten died. Kotenko was in fair condition. — *Scott McCabe*

### Saleswoman sexually assaulted in Centreville

A saleswoman was sexually assaulted while visiting a customer in Centreville Monday night, according to Fairfax County police.

The 42-year-old woman had an appointment at a home at 14336 Silo Valley View to sell some items, police said. When the customer directed her to the basement, he attacked the woman and sexually assaulted her. He took her purse and fled in her car, which was recovered a few blocks away.

The suspect was Hispanic, in his 30s, about 5-feet 6-inches tall with an average build. He had brown eyes with medium-length wavy hair. He was wearing a light colored shirt and jeans. Anyone with information can call police at 866-411-TIPS. — *Scott McCabe*

### D.C. police investigating Monday-night shooting

D.C. police are investigating the death of a 19-year-old male who was shot Monday night.

Around 9:20 p.m., Aaron Thomas, of the 100 block of Galveston Street SE, was brought to the United Medical Center, formerly the Greater Southeast Community Hospital, suffering from a gunshot wound. He died two hours later. A subsequent investigation revealed that Thomas was shot while he was in the area of 7th Street and Mississippi Avenue SE.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call police at 202-727-9099. — *Scott McCabe*

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

# Taking back their streets, one car at a time

Dave Evans is the director for what is likely the region's most extensive neighborhood watch program. A resident of Tanglewood in Silver Spring, Evans helped plant the seeds of the daily patrols conducted by residents in marked cars in 1993. He and others in the community spend several hours a week organizing and patrolling the streets.

### How did you get involved in Neighborhood Watch?

About 15 years ago crime started to rise in our neighborhood. We were losing cars on an average of one every 11 days. We're located off Route 29 and near I-95 so it's easy for thieves to come in and do what they need to do. In reaction, we organized a meeting, about 150 people showed up, and we decided to run with a Neighborhood Watch. ... We started patrolling the streets in cars marked as Neighborhood Watch from Day One. ... Now, we maybe lose one or two cars a year.



COURTESY PHOTOS

### What have you run across in all those years?

The [Drug Enforcement Administration] once contacted us and has a lookout for a car in a particular driveway. We actually saw it and reported it, but nothing ever seemed to come of it. Just last Sunday we had an exciting evening. Three kids were seen lighting a dead tree on fire. I got the call and went out. I ended up chasing the kids, and when the police arrived they were able to arrest one of them. Then, while the police were still there, a truck flew by with its lights out.

When the police stopped the man, they found he was drunk, couldn't speak English and had no driver's license.

### It sounds like the watch has been successful.

We're better off now than we were 15 years ago, even as crime has gone up around us. Criminals figure, 'Why go into a neighborhood where people are patrolling when I could just go into the next one?' ... I've heard of people buying houses in Tanglewood because they've heard of our program. — *Freeman Klopott*

## CRIME HISTORY

### On this day, Sept. 24, 1789

President George Washington signed the Judiciary Act, creating the U.S. Marshals Service, with the entire federal court system.

Many of the first U.S. marshals, including John Adams' son-in-law, Rep. William Stephens Smith for the district of New York, already had proven themselves in military service during the American Revolution.

Over the past 219 years, the marshals have been called on to carry out unusual missions, such as registering enemy aliens in time of war, sealing the American border against armed expeditions from foreign countries and swapping spies with the Soviet Union.

As the young nation expanded westward, marshals were instrumental in keeping law and order in the "Old West" era and involved in apprehending desperadoes such as the Dalton Gang, Bill Doolin and Ned Christie.

The Marshals Service, based in Arlington, is the oldest federal law agency in the United States, although there is some controversy about that. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service claims it was created in 1772.