

HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

The Library of Congress announced that a selection of 13 fully digitized collections of materials submitted by war veterans will be highlighted on the Veterans History Project Web site beginning Nov. 9. The collection of stories, titled "Art of War," will be added to "Experiencing War" stories from the Veterans History Project at www.loc.gov/warstories. "Art of War" demonstrates how various individuals have documented their war experiences with paint brushes, sketching pens and camera lenses. You'll see Vietnam photographs of Aldo Panzieri to the World War II GI portrait sketches of Mimi Korach Lesser.



WHAT'S MAKING NEWS PREDICTING STORMS

National Weather Service hydro-meteorological technician Calvin Meadows speaks about a weather balloon that was launched moments before at the National Weather Service in Sterling, Va. The practice, repeated twice daily in 92 locations in the United States and hundreds more worldwide, is part of a little-known, six-decade-old effort to predict where storms will strike. But the operation soon may become obsolete if a \$20 million network of high-tech sensors quietly installed on some U.S. passenger planes succeeds. -Chris Greenberg/AP

MORE TOP STORIES

ELECTIONS

Absentee ballot application deadline today

The deadline for voters in Arlington and Fairfax counties and the city of Alexandria to submit an application for absentee ballots is 5 p.m. today. The deadline to vote absentee in person is Saturday at the same time.

Applications can be obtained online at alexandriavoter.org, arlingtonva.us and fairfaxcounty.gov. -William C. Flook

CRIME

Prince William police searching for shooter

Prince William police are looking for a suspect in a shooting that occurred on Sunday between 12:30 and 12:42 p.m. on Barksdale Street at Beale Court in Dale City. Police were called to an area hospital's emergency room, where a 20-year-old man was suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. The victim told police he had been shot after he got into a dispute with another man over a missing game system, police said. The suspect, a black male, frequents the Beale Court area, according to police. -Christy Goodman

TRANSPORTATION

Bethlehem Road closed

Bethlehem Road/Route 660 in Prince William County is closed from Wellington Road/Route 674 to Balls Ford Road/Route 621 now through approximately Nov. 20. The road will be closed to allow for construction of a road that will connect Sudley Manor Drive to Chatsworth Drive, improving community access and relieving traffic. An alternative route is Balls Ford Road to Wellington Road. For questions, call 703-369-5885. -Christy Goodman



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FAILURE TO PAY » AN EXAMINER EXCLUSIVE

D.C. teaching fellows are left unpaid

By Michael Neibauer
Examiner Staff Writer

They left lucrative careers as lawyers, consultants, counselors and Hill staffers to join the D.C. Teaching Fellows program, to make a difference as highly qualified teachers and earn an all expenses paid graduate degree in education.

Now in their second of a two-year commitment as full-salaried D.C. Public Schools special education teachers, these fellows are disgusted. They are owed thousands of dollars for Trinity University graduate classes they were required to finance up front with cash or student loans, with the promise of full reimbursement. Some talk of suing.

Most will not return to the classroom once their commitment ends in 2007, they say; it's not worth the hassle.

"If you stripped away the red tape, everyone loves it, and we are good teachers," said Danielle Sullivan, 28, a former congressional aide. "We are really good and we care. So what's heartbreaking is that the system is breaking us."

Wells said he'd hadn't heard sim-



The D.C. teaching fellows are owed reimbursement for graduate study done under the program. - Andrew Harnik/Examiner

A spokeswoman for the District's chief financial officer said last week 89 fellows would be immediately reimbursed \$124,422 for back tuition, averaging out to \$1,300 a person. But the fellows, at least those who attend Trinity University, are owed more than \$4,000 each for the spring and summer semesters.

"I'm really upset about it," said Tommy Wells, the District 3 School Board member and Democratic nominee for the Ward 6 D.C. Council seat. "Beside it being a great program, we're asking these folks to teach for us. We really want to be a good employer. I'm angry."

Wells said he'd hadn't heard sim-

ilar complaints from previous fellow classes, so his "hope is it's only a hiccup."

Lured by a well-designed Internet campaign and slick Web site, the 2005 fellows class survived a competitive application process and rigorous six-week training program to secure a slot. Under their contract, in addition to receiving starting teacher salary and benefits, up front payments for graduate classes would be repaid within one semester.

One fellow, Resheeda Hinkson, negotiated a mortgage with that assurance in hand.

But the Trinity students were told, via an Oct. 17 e-mail from a

D.C. Teaching Fellows manager, that "budget resources" were unavailable and therefore the reimbursement checks have been "delayed indefinitely." An Oct. 18 letter from Tony Demasi, DCPS executive director for human resources, confirmed that "budget constraints" had pushed back payments.

The problems have left the fellows angry, cash-poor and cynical.

"I came from my previous experience working on financial corruption in the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip," said Ghassan Haddad, 31. "My experience with DCPS has left me more depressed, more frustrated, than being there."

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Former student helps behind the scenes with Galludet protests

FOUR-MINUTE INTERVIEW

Brian Riley
Galludet protest organizer

Brian Riley, 44, of Fresno, Calif., worked behind the scenes to help organize the demonstrations that led to Sunday's firing of incoming president Jane Fernandes. Riley, who can hear, was a student before the 1988 protests that led to the removal of the school's president. He now owns a math tutoring business.

What's your background? When did you attend? What are you doing now?

I studied computer science but became so interested in the linguistics of American Sign Language that I enrolled in grad school at Gallaudet in 1985.

As a student, I felt a deep sense of injustice as to how the students were being treated. I was involved in an attempt in 1987 to force the administration to accept American Sign Language as the primary language. I participated in that 1988 "Deaf President Now" protest and felt deeply inspired by it.

What was your involvement in the latest demonstrations?

I played the role of the "cut-out man." Because I was hearing, I could take risks and stir up con-

trovery. If my efforts backfired, I could be "cut out" of the protest, and deaf people could disavow any relationship with me.

Ironically, I was always closest to the scene when I was at home in California and communicating with protesters on the Internet via their pocket pagers. When President Jordan unjustly forced me off campus Oct. 19, I went back home and did more effective work.

The key moment came when the protest leadership [Ryan Commerston, Tawny Holmes, Erin Moran and others] sent the protesters to the gate to be arrested. We knew President I. King Jordan committed political suicide the moment the arrests began and that eventually we would win.

This is the second time that demonstrations have led to the ouster of school president. Is this the best way to select the school's steward?

It's certainly not the best way. People have put their lives at risk. The reason this had to be done is that Congress simply has not been monitoring the trustee members and the administration.

What's going to happen next? Are the demonstrators going to be involved in the selection process?

You better believe that they are going to want a seat at the table during the next selection process, and they deserve to be there. All stakeholders deserve to play a role.

- Scott McCabe



TODAY AT 4PM **OPRAH**

DENZEL WASHINGTON

Even 2 Oscars and 30 films couldn't prepare Denzel Washington for Oprah's big surprise, today at 4 p.m.



THEN AT 5PM

LEON, KATHLEEN, DOUG & TIM

Join Leon Harris, Kathleen Matthews, Doug Hill and Tim Brant for all the day's news and weather — ABC 7 News at 5 p.m.