



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## INSIDE

### USAID Provides Education Services to 1,800 Schools in Ethiopia

The American people, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Community-School Partnership Program, have awarded a \$10 million contract to the non-governmental organization, Save the Children (USA). The three-year program will provide support to 1,800 schools in predominantly pastoralist communities and remote areas in eight regions of Ethiopia.



Ethiopian school girls. (Photo by Paul Whitney)

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### U.S. Actress, Jessica Lange visits Save the Children PEPFAR Program in Ethiopia

Over 60 children from Save the Children's PEPFAR-funded program in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia were on hand to welcome actress and Save the Children Ambassador, Jessica Lange to the community center on Sunday, March 9.



Actress Jessica Lange

The children, part of the Positive Change – Children, Communities and Care (PC3) program representing communities hard hit by HIV/AIDS gave their own dramatic performance in a short

play demonstrating how to integrate orphans and vulnerable children into communities and families.

Following the drama Ms. Lange presented certificates to children who completed the training on grief counseling and life skills. The training was conducted and facilitated by the local Youth Association, a partner of Save the Children.

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## Meeting to Highlight Progress and Lessons Learned in HIV Programming

Washington, DC – HIV/AIDS implementers from around the world will gather in Kampala, Uganda from June 3-7 for the 2008 HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting. Recognizing the rapid expansion of HIV/AIDS programs worldwide, the focus of this year's meeting is building the capacity of local prevention, treatment, and care programs; enhancing quality; and promoting coordination among partners.

The meeting's theme is "Scaling Up Through Partnerships: Overcoming Obstacles to

Implementation." A total of 1,700 attendees are expected, representing governments, nongovernmental organizations including faith- and community-based groups, multilateral organizations, the private sector, and groups of people living with HIV/AIDS. Through presentations, dialogue and networking, participants will identify critical barriers and share information that will directly impact HIV/AIDS program implementation in the coming years. "The experience in Uganda in fighting HIV/AIDS is a true reflection of the meeting's theme," said Dr Kihumuro Apuuli, Director General of the Uganda AIDS Commission.



### Scaling Up Through Partnerships: Overcoming Obstacles to Implementation



"Uganda's achievements in fighting the epidemic cannot be attributed to a single stakeholder or even a cluster of stakeholders, but the collective efforts of all."

"The achievements in the global response to HIV/AIDS in recent years are rooted in the

partnerships with host nations to build their systems and to empower individuals, communities and nations to tackle their epidemics," said Ambassador Mark Dybul, PEPFAR Coordinator.

"The 2008 Implementers' Meeting is an opportunity for all partners to come together to share ideas to further strengthen the global response."

"The scale up of AIDS programs now taking place in Africa and the rest of the world is generating tremendous knowledge and experience," said Dr Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director of the Global Fund. "Through the annual Implementers' Meeting, we can ensure that this knowledge is shared and work becomes more effective and has stronger impact as we move towards universal access to AIDS treatment and prevention services."

Six themes for the meeting have been identified that cut across all areas of HIV/AIDS programming: monitoring and evaluation for impact improvement, human capacity development, knowing your epi-

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## U.S. Actress, Jessica Lange visits Save the Children PEPFAR . . .

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The actress also watched a television episode of *Tsehai Loves Learning* with the children, the 3rd episode in the series "Eat Right and Exercise" that focuses on messages to and for orphans and vulnerable children. The Save the Children produced episode was funded by the Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Discussing the episode, the children

told Ms. Lange that the episode raised their awareness about the importance of exercise and eating healthy and nutritious food by acquainting them with all the various food items.

Finally, Ms. Lange visited the Iddir (community) Youth Association office that supports 467 orphans and vulnerable children in the community with education materials, psychosocial and life skills training, legal support, nutrition, and health

care support.

In the Youth Association office, Ms. Lange met one of the beneficiaries of the program, 14 year old Sintayew, who shared her story. Sintayew, who lost her father 10 years before and her mother 2 and half years before now lives with one younger and one elder sister and is a grade five student. ♦

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## President Bush Remarks on African Malaria Initiative

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
March 12, 2008

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
AT KUWAIT-AMERICA FOUNDATION'S  
STAND FOR AFRICA GALA DINNER

Residence of the Ambassador of  
Kuwait  
Washington, D.C.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. Mr. Ambassador, thank you for the invitation. You've got a beautiful place here. (Laughter.) Rima, thanks very much. I'm honored to be with you. I'm a little late because Laura had me watching "Father of the Bride." (Laughter.) And in that I didn't finish it, I'm going to make my remarks short and go home and watch it. (Laughter.) It's going to be a big year for us. So the guy comes to see me, and he says, I want to marry your daughter. I said, done deal. (Laughter.)

It's also a big year for us because I'm absolutely convinced the momentum that we have started on the continent of Africa in dealing with HIV/AIDS or malaria is going to continue on for a long period of time. And I want to thank you all very much for supporting the initiative.

I do want to say something about our Secretary of State. I can remember early on in my administration -- she was the National Security Advisor then -- and she said, I presume you're going to pay attention to Africa. And I said, that's a good presumption, because I believe to whom much is given, much is required. And the United States



*President George W. Bush delivers remarks at the Kuwait-America Foundation's Stand for Africa Gala Dinner Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at the Residence of the Ambassador of Kuwait. President Bush spoke about the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and the importance of fighting malaria in Africa. White House photo by Chris Greenberg*

of America has been given a lot.

And I firmly believe we're required to respond to human tragedy when we see it.

And there's nothing more tragic than a young baby dying because of a mosquito bite. And so I come to you optimistic about this initiative, and thankful for the folks who are supporting Malaria No More. I, too, want to thank Ray Chambers for his leadership. I like it when people do well in the business world, and then rather than retire, decide to put something back into society. That's exactly what you've done, and we're very grateful for doing what you're doing. I see Justice Alito is here. That's good. Hey, Sam, good to see you. (Laughter.)

Youssou N'Dour. So, Youssou, I've been practicing my dancing recently -- (laughter) -- and singing. (Laughter.) And I'm available for a few tips. I appreciate the members of my Cabinet who are here, and members of Congress.

I, too, want to thank Admiral Mike Mullen for serving as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and his wife, Deborah. It's amazing to be the Commander-in-Chief of a group of people that are dedicated, selfless and courageous like our military, and Admiral Mullen represents the very best of the U.S. military. I thank the Diplomatic Corps who is here, as well.

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## USAID Provides Education Services to 1,800 Schools in Ethiopia . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

USAID has been supporting basic education in Ethiopia for the last 12 years, working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The Community-School Partnership Program will strengthen communities' engagement in educational development, supported by a grant to each school. The program will use a more holistic approach, combining health and water and sanitation resources to strengthen and mobilize community groups in the education and health sectors to improve services in both categories. For example, 900 schools will receive a safe drinking water supply.

The program will build upon the existing school organizational management system, in close coordination with community health promoters or institutions, to enhance critical linkages between and among the primary education and health care systems. Primary health care sites and services will be linked to schools to provide HIV awareness, immunization, vitamin A supplementation and other essential nutrition actions.

"We are working together to improve not only the quality of education within primary schools, but also the quality of life for primary students," Dr. Kevin A. Rushing, Acting USAID/Ethiopia Mission Di-

rector, said. "The Community-School Partnership Program brings together parents, teachers, government leaders, health care providers, and students to strengthen schools across Ethiopia."

Communities will be empowered to participate in the design and management of education services, strengthening community involvement and good governance. The new program will also contribute to the Government of Ethiopia's decentralization efforts by building the capacity of Parent Teacher Associations, local education and training boards, and district education offices. ♦

## President Bush Remarks on African Malaria Initiative . . .

*(Continued from page 3)*

So, my friends in Texas say, you know, don't we have enough problems here at home? And my answer is, we're wealthy enough and we're strong enough and we're good enough to take problems -- take on problems here at home, as well as in other parts of the world. And then I remind them that we're living in a very difficult period in the history of the world. After all, we're witnessing an ideological struggle between those who kill the innocent to achieve political objectives and those who believe in human dignity and human rights and human freedom.

And it's a tough time, and it's going to take a while to prevail. But one thing is for certain: that this enemy we face cannot possibly find recruits based upon their vision.

Their vision for life is so dark and so dim and so degrading that it's impossible for them to recruit unless they find hopeless situations. And there's nothing more hopeless for a mother to see a baby die needlessly. And there's nothing more hopeless than a pandemic that sweeps through a continent.

And so the initiative, the Malaria No More initiative, first and foremost is a part of our efforts to make sure that peace prevails in the long term. And it's working. It's amazing. Admiral Ziemer is here. This guy can get the job done. See, I -- one of the things that we pride ourselves on in this administration is we like to not only be talkers, we like to be doers. We like to set out an agenda and then see to it that the agenda is accomplished.

And working on this Malaria Initia-

tive, we can measure. You can measure how many nets have been purchased and distributed; how many pills have been distributed; how many countries have been affected. When we were in Tanzania, we were told that Zanzibar, which is a part of Tanzania, went from having their babies infected by malaria at the tune of 20 percent to 1 percent in 18 months. And so I am the kind of fellow that says, this is in our interests and I expect the monies that we're spending to be spent well and to be spent wisely, and they are.

It's also in our moral interest. Our nation is a better nation when we help people save lives. The collective will of the American people to help somebody who suffers, who they might not ever know, lifts our national spirit. And so on our trip

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## Voice of America Expands Swahili Broadcasts to Kenya

Washington, D.C.,  
March 17, 2008 - The  
Voice of America  
(VOA) has expanded  
Swahili broadcasts to  
Kenya to include an  
additional half-hour  
each day.

"Providing reliable  
news and information  
to the people of Kenya  
is critical, particularly  
during this time," said  
VOA Africa Division  
Chief Gwen Dillard.  
"This shows once  
again how VOA can  
provide a valuable ser-  
vice to audiences," she  
added.

The expanded radio  
coverage will offer

news from a network of stringers in  
the region, interviews with a range  
of newsmakers including ruling and  
opposition party representatives,  
political analysts, economists, local  
residents, as well as U.S. officials,  
UN, EU and AU mediators and other  
African leaders.



*Voice of America (VOA) broadcasts in dozens of languages (listed below) from dozens of high-powered transmitters around the world.*

The service will also begin a new  
series called In Focus taking an in-  
depth look at issues such as land  
distribution, the constitution, ethnic  
tensions, national reconciliation and  
the future of democracy in Kenya.

The new program will be broadcast  
at 0930-1000 UTC, 12:30 p.m.

local time Monday-Friday,  
and at 1700-1730 UTC,  
8:00 p.m. on weekends.  
Swahili broadcasts will  
now run for a total of two  
hours each weekday and  
one hour on Saturdays  
and Sundays. Visit  
[www.VOANews.com/  
swahili](http://www.VOANews.com/swahili) for more informa-  
tion on VOA Swahili lan-  
guage programming.

The Voice of America,  
which first went on the air  
in 1942, is a multimedia  
international broadcasting  
service funded by the U.S.  
government through the  
Broadcasting Board of  
Governors. VOA broad-  
casts more than 1,250  
hours of news, informa-  
tion, educational, and cul-

tural programming every week to an  
estimated worldwide audience of  
more than 115 million people. Pro-  
grams are produced in 45 lan-  
guages.

For further information, please con-  
tact the Office of Public Affairs at  
(202)203-4959. ♦

## President Bush Remarks on African Malaria Initiative . . .

*(Continued from page 4)*

to Africa, I tried to make sure that  
the people of Africa understood this  
wasn't a George Bush initiative or a  
Laura Bush initiative or a Condi Rice  
initiative; this was an initiative of  
the most compassionate people on  
the face of the earth -- the Ameri-  
can people.

And you're helping this initiative go  
forward. And so I've taken a  
breather from the movie to come by  
-- (laughter) -- to thank you very  
much for standing strong with the  
forces of goodness and light and  
compassion. And the work you're  
doing is necessary and it's impor-  
tant and it's succeeding. And I  
hope you take great heart in that.

Thanks for letting me come by to  
say, hi; and God bless you all.  
(Applause.)

(end transcript)

*(Distributed by the Bureau of Inter-  
national Information Programs, U.S.  
Department of State. Web site:  
<http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

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## Maine's College of the Atlantic Is the "Greenest" of Them All

By Jeffrey Thomas  
Staff Writer

Washington -- When David Hale, president of the College of the Atlantic (COA) in Bar Harbor, Maine, pledged in 2006 that his school would become the world's first carbon net-zero campus, he made the commitment "because it's the right thing to do."

Carbon net-zero means that all greenhouse gas emissions associated with the activities of the college have been avoided or reduced, or offset by investing in programs that limit emissions elsewhere.

As a college dedicated to ecology, "we should be doing everything we can to reduce our carbon footprint and any other kind of pollution or adverse environmental impact," said Hale in an interview. "The primary motivation for us is to practice what we teach."

COA offers only one undergraduate degree, a bachelor of arts in human ecology. There are about 325 students, with 20 percent coming from outside the United States.

Hale believes higher education "has a special responsibility in moving toward sustainability. We have the resources. Even at a small college like ours, we're wealthy enough that we have no excuse not to do the right thing."

The college saw in the pledge "a tremendous learning opportunity," he said.

COA conducted an energy audit of its greenhouse gas emissions and researched ways to reduce or offset these emissions, which contribute to global warming. It improved en-



*When David Hale, president of the College of the Atlantic (COA)*

ergy efficiency in its buildings with such measures as replacing incandescent light bulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescents. The college raises organic food and promotes alternative commuting methods such as carpooling and biking, and it has flexible work plans so more employees can work from home.

Carbon offsets counteract or offset greenhouse gases that are emitted into the atmosphere. They can be created by such actions as planting trees, increasing energy efficiency in buildings or transportation, or investing in projects that reduce the emission of greenhouse gases elsewhere. To offset the emissions the college could not avoid, COA students chose to invest in a greenhouse gas reduction project operated by The Climate Trust, of Oregon, that optimizes traffic signals and manages traffic flow to reduce the amount of time cars spend idling at traffic lights.

COA students have not only been

supportive of the measures taken to fulfill the net-zero carbon footprint pledge, but they also "drive us to new measures," Hale said. "The only grumbling we have is if we're not green enough."

In new campus residences that open in September 2008, timers have been installed to ensure that hot water goes off after three minutes. Each unit separately will measure its energy usage. "What we're anticipating ... is that there will be significant competition among each of these residential units to be the most energy-efficient unit," Hale said.

In December 2007, just 15 months after taking on the challenge of reducing its carbon footprint to net zero, COA fulfilled its pledge, becoming the first college or university anywhere to achieve carbon neutrality.

A top environmental news Web site, Grist.org, recently ranked COA as "the greenest college in the world." The nonprofit Sustainable Endowments Institute (SEI) also honored COA by naming it as one of four colleges and universities to receive the institute's first Sustainability Innovator Award.

Hale said colleges and universities represent a big enough sector to influence markets. "We're training the consumers of tomorrow, and we all have influence on our alumni," he said. The 5,000 U.S. colleges and universities constitute "a relatively large and influential sector that ought to be both capable of doing the right thing and more sensitive to trying to conduct our affairs in a sustainable way."

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## Maine's College of the Atlantic Is the "Greenest" of Them All . . .

(Continued from page 6)

He said COA students have been active on other green fronts. They are involved "in everything from watershed management around this region, to regional planning efforts, to drafting the legislation which finally became Maine's bottle law for deposit returns. COA students helped draft legislation requiring that the environmental, economic and cultural impact of large franchises -- so-called "big box" stores -- be evaluated "before permission is given to move ahead with those developments," Hale said.

Staying carbon neutral "is something you have to do every year; you can't achieve it once and then say 'OK, now we did it, now we can forget about that,'" he observed. COA has taken on a new



COA student on great duck island

pledge: to get all of its energy from renewable sources by 2015. The college has marine biology island

research stations, and the biggest challenge will be finding a way to power its marine fleet by renewable means.

"Right now, the technology doesn't really exist for us to meet that goal," Hale said. "We're hoping by making that commitment to encourage others to make that kind of commitment and to provide a stronger market for the development of the technology that will let many people, not just us, move toward being 100 percent renewable."

But making the commitment is imperative, he said. "My strong guess is that by 2020 or 2025, any institution that is still paying for fossil fuels is going to be having a very difficult time financially." ♦

## Meeting to Highlight Progress and Lessons Learned in HIV Programming

(Continued from page 2)

demographic and response, coordination and harmonization, linking people with resources, and integration of services.

"Sharing best practices and lessons learned in implementing programs is an essential part of informing future AIDS programming," said Dr Peter Piot, Executive Director, UNAIDS. "The first meeting took place in Kigali last year and I look forward to seeing the progress made in scaling up the response to the epidemic and overcoming the barriers to universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support," he added.

"Programs to prevent HIV transmission from mother to newborn, to diagnose and treat HIV positive children, to prevent infections among

adolescents and to care for orphans and children affected by AIDS are now part of the AIDS strategies of nearly every country," said Jimmy Kolker, Chief of the HIV and AIDS Section at UNICEF. "Coming together to share best practices will move us closer to an AIDS-free generation. Kampala will reaffirm the priority that the global community must continue to give to the fight against AIDS."

Building on the 2007 Implementers' meeting held in Kigali, Rwanda, the meeting is hosted by the and is once again sponsored by the; The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; UNAIDS; UNICEF; the World Bank; the World Health Organization; and the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS.

Meeting Information and Registration Available Online at:  
[www.hivimplementers.com](http://www.hivimplementers.com)

For Information about the host of the meeting:  
Government of Uganda  
[www.aidsuganda.org](http://www.aidsuganda.org)

For Information about the sponsors of the meeting:  
U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)  
[www.PEPFAR.gov](http://www.PEPFAR.gov)  
Tuberculosis and Malaria; UNAIDS  
[www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)  
UNICEF [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)  
World Bank [www.worldbank.org/aids](http://www.worldbank.org/aids)  
World Health Organization  
[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)  
Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS [www.gnpplus.net](http://www.gnpplus.net) ♦

## U.S. Cities Strike Up the Band for St. Patrick's Day Parades

By Bridget Hunter  
Staff Writer

Washington -- St. Patrick's Day offers the Irish and non-Irish alike the opportunity to celebrate "Irishness" in a variety of ways -- some authentic, some innovative, some downright tacky -- but none has proved more widespread or enduring than the annual parade.

The run-up to the March 17 holiday is celebrated worldwide with parades, the largest of which are held in Dublin (Ireland), New York City, Montreal and Boston. Parades also are held in London, Paris, Rome, Moscow, Beijing, Hong Kong and Singapore.

In the United States, St. Patrick's Day parades are wildly popular, even in areas without any sizeable Irish-American population, and tend to take on a regional flavor. Chicago dyes its rivers green on parade day; other cities settle for painting green the traffic stripes on parade routes. In New Orleans, the parade takes on a Mardi Gras feel, but with vegetables thrown in lieu of beads, perhaps in memory of the thousands of Irish who fled Ireland during the famine of the 1800s only to die of tropical diseases in Louisiana.

The first recorded New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade took place March 17, 1762, when a small group of Irish New Yorkers marched to the John Marshall's Inn, near the present-day intersection of Barclay and Church streets in Manhattan. Little else is known about that early parade.



*Thomas Borum, 6, rides on top of a float in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. (AP Images)*

First intended "to show the newly arrived immigrants as respectable citizens worthy of esteem in American society," according to historian John T. Ridge, the parade soon became an assertion of the political strength of the Irish in New York.

The New York parade is pre-eminent among St. Patrick's Day's parades. Organizers cite participation by more than 200,000, including marching bands, pipe and drum corps, police and military group, firefighters, emigrant societies, equestrian groups and canine handlers. The parade attracts roughly 2 million spectators.

Other long-running St. Patrick's Day parades in the United States include those in Boston (1737), Philadelphia (1780), Chicago (1843) and San

Francisco (1852).

In 1855, Thomas Francis Meagher, later a hero of the American Civil War, called the New York parade "a festival of memory" and its organizers believe it remains so today -- "a festival of religious memory, of cultural memory, and of familial memory. ... For each marcher and each spectator, even those who are Irish only for the day, has his or her own family history, a history which, this country being what it is, this world being what it is, is likely to tell a tale of exile and dispossession, of struggle and success, of decline and rebirth and continuance."

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

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## Aid Official Uses YouTube to Urge Information Sharing

By Kathryn McConnell  
Staff Writer

Washington -- The top American foreign aid official is inviting people involved in international development to access a new Internet network known as the Global Development Commons to share information about ways to reduce poverty.

In a YouTube video posting, Henrietta Fore, director of U.S. foreign assistance and administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) said the development commons is a way for everyone -- nongovernmental groups, individuals, government officials and business representatives -- to exchange ideas about helping the world's poor. YouTube is an online video community based in San Bruno, California, and a subsidiary of Google Inc.

Fore made the video in January at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. It was highlighted in February at the quarterly meeting in Washington of USAID's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA). At the USAID advisory committee meeting, Fore urged those involved in international development to "break down information silos" and share their knowledge and experiences with others.

The Global Development Commons is making it easier for developing countries and their citizens to find solutions and resources that match their development needs, according to a USAID fact sheet.



*Henrietta Fore, director of U.S. foreign assistance and administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)*

The commons is a virtual space where those who give or receive foreign aid share ideas in real-time. It is not owned by any government, business or other entity but by the users. It builds on recent changes in the direction of development assistance, said Steve Gale, USAID adviser for strategic communications.

The development network is a "bold initiative that has gained momentum," Gale said.

In her YouTube video, Fore gives the example of a coffee farmer in Peru using the commons Internet network to find out how more ef-

fectively to grow and market his crop.

Another example of USAID promotion of knowledge sharing is its microLINKS site, which provides users with the latest information on microenterprise development; best practices; proven approaches from USAID missions and their partners; and a library.

USAID also offers a Trade Capacity Database, which accesses evaluation and project funding data searchable by country, region, trade capacity building category and funding agency.

Another example is the Frame Network, which features information for the environmental community.

At the ACVFA meeting, Carol Adelman, the group's vice chair and director for the Center for Global Development at Washington's Hudson Institute, urged all charitable groups to achieve greater online presences through such social and networking sites as Facebook and MySpace because of those sites' widespread popularity.

More information about the Global Development Commons ( [http://www.usaid.gov/about\\_usaid/gdc/gdc\\_inbrief.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/about_usaid/gdc/gdc_inbrief.pdf) ) (PDF) is available on USAID's Web site.

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

## Presidential Proclamation on Women's History Month, 2008

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
March 10, 2008

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH,  
2008

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### A PROCLAMATION

During Women's History Month, we celebrate the courage, foresight, and resolve of women who have strengthened our democracy.

America has been transformed by strong women whose contributions shaped the history of our country. Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, and she inspired generations of women to follow their dreams.

Physicist Chien-Shiung Wu helped advance our knowledge and understanding of the world through her achievements in atomic research. Harriet Tubman fought racial injustice and opened doors for more Americans to participate fully in our society.

Today, women are continuing this legacy of leadership as entrepreneurs, doctors, teachers, scientists, lawyers, artists, and public officials. They are also providing guidance and care to their loved ones and strengthening America's families and communities. We also remember the women of the United States Armed Forces who are serving our country with honor and distinction across the world.



*President George W. Bush is applauded by Mrs. Laura Bush, Cabinet members and members of Congress, at the proclamation signing for Women's History Month Monday, March 10, 2008 in the East Room of the White House in honor of Women's History Month and International Women's Day. White House photo by Joyce N. Boghosian*

This month, we honor the extraordinary women of our Nation's past and recognize the countless women who are demonstrating leadership in every aspect of American life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2008 as Women's History Month. I call upon all our citizens to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that honor the history, accomplishments, and contributions of American women.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH

(end text)

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## United States Honors Eight Female Champions of Human Rights

By Jane Morse  
Staff Writer

Washington -- Ambassadors and other diplomats, members of Congress and leaders of nonprofit organizations gathered at the U.S. Department of State March 10 to honor eight women who have risked harassment and death to fight for women's rights.

"In too many parts of the world, unfortunately, women still struggle for basic rights and liberties in places where discrimination and exploitation and violence against women is all too common and all too often accepted or tolerated," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said at the awards ceremony.

The 2008 award recipients, she said, "also represent many other women around the world who fight and sacrifice so that future generations may benefit from human rights protections, access to justice and democracy, and greater prosperity and personal security in their countries."

This year's winners are Suraya Pakzad of Afghanistan, Virisila Buadromo of Fiji, Dr. Eaman al-Gobory of Iraq, Valdete Idrizi of Kosovo, Dr. Begum Jan of Pakistan, Nibal Thawabteh of the Palestinian Territories, Cynthia Bendlin of Paraguay and Farhiyo Farah Ibrahim of Somalia.

The Women of Courage Awards were first awarded in March 2007. The initial group of honorees represented Afghanistan, Argentina, Indonesia, Iraq, Latvia, Maldives, Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe.



*Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, center, and Andrea Bottner, senior coordinator, Office of International Women's Issues, left, pose with recipients of the 2nd Annual International Women of Courage Awards at the State Department, Monday, March 10, 2008, in Washington. From left are, Bottner; Virisila Buadromo of Fiji; Valdete Idrizi of Kosovo; Farhiyo Farah Ibrahim of Somalia; Rice; Nibal Thawabteh of Palestine; and Dr. Eaman Al-Gobory of Iraq. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)*

Rice said that "no culture, no religion and no tradition of any nation provides license for treating women as objects or instruments to be commanded by another."

### UNITED STATES "DEEPLY COMMITTED" TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS

"The United States remains deeply committed to helping women of courage everywhere to peacefully remove the barriers to political, economic and social empowerment for themselves and for others," Rice said.

Paula Dobriansky, under secretary of state for democracy and global affairs, presented each woman with a trophy, and noted that "when women stand up for their freedom, all of society benefits.

"When women are educated, have access to health care and are active and productive members of their country's economy and governments, their countries are better equipped to reach their full potential," Dobriansky said.

Guests at the awards ceremony included Samir Sumaidaie, the ambassador to the United States from Iraq; Tayeb Jawad, the ambassador to the United States from Afghanistan, and his wife; Representative Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee; Representative Nita Lowey of New York; Ambassador Ellen Sauerbery, the State Department's assistant secretary for population, refugees and migration; and Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli, senior adviser to the Secretary of State for women's empowerment.

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Somali Woman Champions Women's Rights in Africa

By Jane Morse  
Staff Writer

Washington -- It can be a lonely job fighting for women's rights. But Farhiyo Farah Ibrahim, just 25 years old, has found the fortitude to withstand severe ostracism in her fight for a better life for women in Africa.

Her bravery in the face of rejection by her family and community has won her recognition in the United States: On March 10 she was honored with the International Women of Courage Award.

The award, now in its second year, is the result of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's desire to recognize women around the globe who have shown exceptional courage and leadership in promoting women's rights and advancement.

Ibrahim was joined by seven other 2008 award recipients at a ceremony at the U.S. Department of State. The other women, from Fiji, Kosovo, the Palestinian

Authority, Pakistan, Paraguay, Iraq and Afghanistan, were selected from 93 nominees submitted by U.S. embassies worldwide.

Ibrahim came to Kenya in 1992 as a young child after clan-based militia killed her grandfather and raped her mother in Somalia. She grew up in the Dadaab refugee camp. She completed the eighth grade but had to

leave school to support her family.



*Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hugs award recipient Farhiyo Farah Ibrahim of Somalia. (State Dept.)*

She became an incentive worker for the National Council of Churches in Kenya (NCCCK) as a reproductive health motivator in 2002 and was accused of converting to Christianity. She campaigned against female genital mutilation (FGM) and won a small victory when her mother agreed that the youngest sister would not undergo FGM; but the child was sexually attacked and forced to drop out of school.



*International Women of Courage Award winner Farhiyo Farah Ibrahim*

Ibrahim advocated condom use and promoted voluntary counseling and testing for HIV/AIDS. Her father accused her of bringing shame to her family through her work and forced her to leave her family when she refused to marry a man much older than she.

Faced with open hostility from the Somali community, which ridiculed and attacked her in public, Ibrahim had to quit her job with the NCCCK but found work as an interpreter in Dadaab.

Despite the extremely hostile envi-

ronment in which she lives and works, Ibrahim remains a passionate champion for the rights of women, girls and refugees. She continues to speak out against forced marriage, violence and FGM on women and girls in the refugee camps in Kenya.

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

### United States Honors Eight Female Champions . . .

*(Continued from page 11)*

Also in attendance were representatives of American Women for International Understanding, a non-profit organization that will be holding a dinner to honor the Women of Courage awardees at the National Press Club and will present each recipient with a \$1,000 grant.

During their Washington visit, the awardees met at the White House with President and Mrs. Bush and members of the U.S. Congress.

March 10 is International Women's Day. Among the activities planned at the State Department is a gathering of judges and legal practitioners from around the world to discuss action that can be taken to prevent violations against women such as rape, domestic violence, human trafficking and prostitution.

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

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## Secretary Rice Convenes Global Forum for Women's Justice

By Jane Morse  
Staff Writer

Washington -- Legal practitioners from 17 countries around the world gathered at the State Department March 12 to explore ways to prevent violence against women and provide women with equal access to justice.

"In our world today," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in the keynote address, "one out of every three women will be beaten, raped or otherwise abused during her lifetime." Passing laws to protect women is not enough, she said. "Laws must be enforced by effective and responsible governments."

Rice also pointed to a violent crime against women "that stands out above the rest" -- trafficking in women. Roughly 800,000 people worldwide are subjected to this modern form of slavery, which exploits mostly women and girls.

Distinguished judges, law experts and practitioners attended the forum. Including were: the attorney general of Malawi; the deputy attorney general of Pakistan; the chief justices of the high courts of Bahrain, Benin, Ghana and Morocco; and justices from the high courts of Argentina, Bangladesh, Hungary, Liberia and Sierra Leone. State and federal court justices and judges and attorneys from across the United States also attended, as did representatives of nongovernmental organizations concerned with women's issues.



*Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said courts must recognize and confront domestic violence.*

### CHANGING CULTURAL ATTITUDES ABOUT WOMEN

Sharing the podium with Rice was Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. The retired associate justice cited studies that show that only half the women subjected to domestic violence find any recourse in their country's justice system.

But education and economic opportunities significantly reduce the chances that a woman will be abused, O'Connor said, and she urged aggressive promotion of gender equality and human rights for

women.

O'Connor said changing cultural attitudes about women is critical in empowering women. Decades ago, she said, many in the United States believed wives who were beaten by their husband somehow "deserved" it.

"It is in recognizing and responding to this fundamental difference in the experiences of gender that courts and legislatures face their most difficult challenges, both in the United States and around the globe. Nowhere is this challenge more evident than in the field of domestic violence," O'Connor said.

"In the last 20 years in this country, federal, state and local governments have worked to try to hold offenders in domestic abuse cases accountable and to provide some support to the victims," O'Connor said. "Penalties for domestic violence have increased throughout this country," she said, and shelters and support systems for women and their children have been established. As a result, she said, "in the last 10 years the Bureau of Justice [Statistics] in this country estimates that domestic violence rates fell by more than 50 percent because of these efforts."

O'Connor said that while women in the United States and around the world still have much more work to do to banish domestic violence, the progress achieved so far indicates that this crime against women can be eliminated.

*(Continued on page 17)*

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## “Trailblazers” Honored by Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

By Melody Merin  
Special Correspondent

Washington -- The artists honored by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2008 represent many of the styles and genres that have shaped the vibrant American musical landscape.

Pop icon Madonna, blues harmonica player Little Walter, singer-songwriters John Mellencamp and Leonard Cohen, British rockers the Dave Clark Five, rock instrumentalists The Ventures and soul music producers Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff were inducted into

the Hall of Fame at a ceremony in New York on March 10.

“The 2008 inductees are trailblazers -- all unique and influential in their genres,” said Joel Peresman, president and chief executive officer of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation. They “demonstrate the rich diversity of rock ‘n’ roll itself.”

Over the 23 years since the first group of inductees included Elvis Presley and Little Richard, defining what and who represents “rock ‘n’ roll” continues to evolve.

One example is Madonna -- the “Queen of Pop” -- with hits such as “Material Girl” and “Like a Virgin” in the 1980s and “Vogue” and “Justify My Love” in the 1990s. Madonna has evolved and moved to icon status, outlasting many of her contemporaries by constantly rein-

venting her look and mixing up her sound along the way -- for instance, incorporating the distinctive qualities of disco and electronica into her songs. The Hall of Fame calls her “one of the most ferociously original artists in music today.”

that the honor “opens the gates to our culture.” And Mele Mel, the rapper in the group’s 1982 hit “The Message,” urged music executives to “make hip-hop the culture that it was, instead of the culture of violence it is right now.”

For many artists and musicians, socially and politically conscious messages are part of the fabric of rock ‘n’ roll. Following in the footsteps of Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan (both inducted in 1988), rocker John Mellencamp was honored in 2008. Famous for melodic hits like “Jack and Diane” and “Small Town,” Indiana-born Mel-

lencamp is credited with shedding light on issues important to Americans living in the heartland. In 1985, he co-founded Farm Aid, a nonprofit organization that works in behalf of farmers and their families. Along with fellow musicians Willie Nelson and Neil Young, he also organized the first Farm Aid concert.

Billy Joel, who inducted Mellencamp, said people “need to hear somebody out there who feels like they do, in the small towns or the big cities. And it doesn't matter if they hear it on a jukebox or in a gin



*Kenneth Gamble, left, and Leon Huff are inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Patti LaBelle is in center. (© AP Images)*

## “Trailblazers” Honored by Rock and Roll Hall of Fame . . .

(Continued from page 14)

mill.”

Onstage, Mellencamp said he was lucky to be there, and he shared the story of having to undergo lifesaving surgery for a spinal birth defect at the age of six weeks.

Montreal-born Leonard Cohen, known for his elegiac melodies and mysterious lyrics -- such as in the much-covered song “Hallelujah” -- was introduced by Lou Reed. Cohen gained acclaim with the 1966 release of Judy Collins’ album *In My Life*, which contained his songs “Suzanne” and “Dress Rehearsal Rag.” His album *The Songs of Leonard Cohen* was released in 1967.

Reed said, “We’re so lucky to be alive at the same time Leonard Cohen is.”

Longtime partners Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, who write and produce songs and own the record label Philadelphia International, were inducted by rhythm and blues singer Patti LaBelle. She belted out “If You Don’t Know Me by Now,” which won Gamble and Huff a Grammy in 1990 for producing Simply Red’s cover of the Blue Notes’ 1972 hit.

The Brit pop group the Dave Clark Five, minus singer Mike Smith, who recently died of pneumonia at the age of 64, was inducted by actor Tom Hanks. Considered one of the most successful “British Invasion” bands in the 1960s, the group is famous for hits like “Glad All Over”



*Madonna is inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame March 10, 2008, at a ceremony in New York. (© AP Images)*

and “Bits and Pieces.” The band has sold more than 50 million records.

The Ventures, known for instrumental surfer anthems of the 1960s, performed two of their most famous -- “Walk, Don’t Run” and “Hawaii Five-O” -- during the ceremony.

“When the Ventures first hit the radio, I would say I was gone,” singer John Fogerty said in inducting the band.

Posthumous honors went to Little Walter Jacobs, who died in 1968. Praised for his pioneering use of the microphone, which helped establish the modern blues harmonica, Little Walter recorded with legends like Muddy Waters and Bo Diddley.

Artists can be considered for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame 25 years after their first record is released. Others in the music business, such as songwriters and producers, are also honored. There is also a category called Early Influences, acknowledging artists from earlier eras whose music inspired and influenced rock ‘n’ roll. Woody Guthrie is one, as well as singers Nat “King” Cole, Billie Holiday and Louis Armstrong, folk singer Pete Seeger and bluegrass icon Bill Monroe, among others.

All the honorees are commemorated in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland. More information is available on the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame ( <http://www.rockhall.com/> ) Web site.

See The Arts - Music ( <http://amlife.america.gov/amlife/arts/music.html> ).

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## Hollywood Goes to University to Teach Copyright Lesson

By Christopher Connell  
Special Correspondent

Washington -- College kids cannot get enough of the movies. And the movies have mined collegiate life for countless tales of love, adventure, rebellion and triumph -- and that's just in the 1978 film *Animal House*. From Harold Lloyd's *The Freshman* to the Marx brothers' *Horsefeathers* to Reese Witherspoon's *Legally Blonde*, the love affair between Hollywood and higher education always has been passionate.

But nowadays, the movie industry is troubled by the behavior of its best customers, some of whom have grown accustomed to watching new releases for free, not by sneaking past ticket-takers, but by using lightning-fast computer connections to pirate Hollywood's offerings.

The movie makers, unlike colleagues in the recording industry, have elected not to slap lawsuits on students nabbed with purloined material on their hard drives.

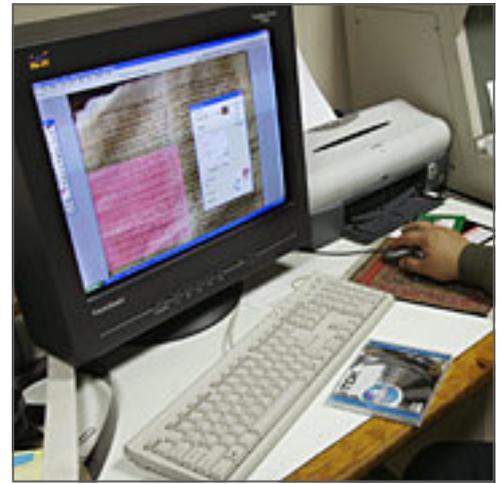
Instead, the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) is trying to convince college presidents to crack down on the thievery and is pushing Congress to punish campuses if they do not take action against use of high-speed networks for illicit file-sharing.

Taking students to court "is not our primary strategy," says Stewart McLaurin, MPAA executive vice president for education affairs. "We want these people to have positive feelings about our product. We

don't want them to hate our industry and hate movies."

The industry is not just educating college kids. It recently linked up with *Weekly Reader*, a magazine distributed in elementary classrooms, to put lessons about copyright protection into the hands of younger students. McLaurin said kids learn download misbehavior as early as third grade.

The MPAA recently made an embarrassing admission: a piracy study that it commissioned and



*Piracy costs the film industry millions*



publicized was wildly off in blaming college students for 44 percent of losses due to film piracy. Attributing the mistake to the consulting firm L.E.K., the MPAA revised the estimate downward to 15 percent.

Even at 15 percent, that pilferage amounts to a loss of nearly \$250 million, the MPAA maintains.

McLaurin regularly visits campuses and academic conferences to press the issue. "Three to four years ago, this would have been a topic discussed pretty much with the CIO [chief information officer] on campus," he said, but now university presidents and governing boards are involved. Some universities strip students of computer privileges for repeat offenses.

McLaurin said that "every college in the United States" could be affected by the rewrite of the Higher Education Act pending in Congress. Both Senate and House have passed provisions requiring universities to advise students against piracy and warn them of the penalties. The House version would require campuses to "explore technology-based deterrents" to illegal downloading.

Critics scoff that this is easier said than done. The American Council on Education and a dozen other higher education lobbies are trying to get that House provision killed,

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**Secretary Rice Convenes Global Forum for Women's Justice . . .**

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**INCREASING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

Avon Products Inc. co-hosted the event. Andrea Jung, chairman and chief executive officer of the company, said that the Avon Foundation -- the world's largest foundation dedicated solely to improving the lives of women -- launched in 2004 its "Speak Out Against Domestic Violence" initiative in the United States. Avon already has awarded more than \$6 million to more than 250 domestic violence organizations in the United States.

Avon is also donating \$1 million to the United Nations Trust Fund to launch the Avon Women's Empowerment Fund. The goal is to provide financial and technical assistance to innovative programs that foster women's empowerment and gender

equality.

Avon, which sells beauty products worldwide, employs 5.4 million representatives to serve more than 300 million women in more than 100 countries. "We are by far the largest network of women in the world," Jung said.

Jung called for greater public-private partnerships: "If we fuse our strengths, the vast resources and commitments in the private sector, combined with the public sector's expertise and grassroots networks, then, working together, our voices will be that much louder, our impact that much greater, and our solutions that much closer."

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**Hollywood Goes to University to Teach Copyright Lesson . . .**

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arguing that "online alternatives and technical deterrents are immature and expensive" and that students using campus networks may be responsible "for just 3 percent of the losses due to illegal downloading."

The MPAA, under Dan Glickman, a former Kansas congressman and secretary of agriculture, long has basked in a reputation as one of Washington's most potent lobbies. But cracking down on piracy is a tough sell to young people who grew up accustomed to getting things for free on the Internet. When Glickman spoke at UCLA in 2005, students greeted his remarks with a chorus of the pirate yell, "ARRRRGGGHHH!"

McLaurin believes progress is being made. The recording and music industries joined with universities in 2002 to form the Joint Committee of the Higher Education and Entertainment Communities to seek common ground. In the fall of 2007, MPAA and the University of California system hosted 200 leaders from academia, Hollywood and the technology industry to foster an understanding of different perspectives on the issue.

"In any relationship, when you're only dealing with the difficult, hard and challenging issues, the relationship is going to be difficult, hard and challenging," McLaurin said. "We feel it's important to our industry and our members to reach out and build relationships and

have a different dimension and traction on the problem than just [filing] lawsuits."

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