



Paris called and Cambridge answered

Daniela Caride

When a family friend told Stephanie Guirand last summer he wouldn't be able to cosign her college loan, the young Cambridge resident began to despair.

This would mean quitting her studies at University of Connecticut, where the 20-year-old Guirand, originally from Haiti,

was majoring in anthropology and scheduled to graduate in 2009.

Even worse: the Cambridge Rindge and Latin graduate had just been accepted into a program that would take her to the University of Paris Sorbonne for a year. Now, she'd have to pass.

"Freaking out and not sure what I was supposed to do, I told ... the mayor about this," said Guirand, who was interning at office of Cambridge Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves at the time, in a telephone interview.

It's good to have friends in high places.

Within a week and with the help of Richard McKinnon from The McKinnon Company, who donated himself and collected contributions from the Cambridge business community, Reeves was able to raise the \$10,500 Guirand needed.

All that was left was to say "au revoir."

Guirand has been in Paris since

September, paying bills with savings she and her mother put together while working and covering tuition with the money raised through Reeves' initiative.

Mayoral spokesman John Clifford says Reeves' involvement is an outgrowth of his commitment to learning in Cambridge.

"The mayor is extremely focused on education," said Clifford. "So, with Stephanie, he thought it was ... a shame that she might be unable to attend the Sorbonne because of the \$10,500."

And Guirand was an "extremely good" intern, according to Clifford.

"She was familiar with the local government, she's a great writer, a great communicator, and she could follow

instructions," he said. "Stephanie is a leader, and she believes in the Haitian and black community."

Those skills helped Guirand take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the Cambridge contingent's contribution as soon as she set foot in Paris.

"France is treating me well. From the first day I realized that I was in a foreign world. We began classes the very next day. We have classes everyday for four hours. The classes are challenging and informative," she wrote in an e-mail to Reeves' office.

Paris, continued to page 13

With the help of Richard McKinnon, who donated himself and collected contributions from the Cambridge business community, Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves was able to raise the \$10,500 Guirand needed.



Students from the St. Mark's School Music Program show off their talents during a recent visit from University of Massachusetts-Boston Chancellor J. Keith Motley. The chancellor gave the children UMass-Boston sweatshirts to thank them for being part of his inauguration ceremony, when they provided the musical welcome. (Harry Brett photo)

Obama: 'Time to turn the page and stand for change'

Nedra Pickler

DES MOINES, Iowa — Barack Obama declared last Thursday that he is the only candidate who can bring true change in Washington, hoping to persuade Iowa voters to give him the first victory in the Democratic presidential race.

Making his case against Hillary Rodham Clinton without naming her, Obama said, "The real gamble in this election is playing the same Washington game with the same Washington players and expecting a different result."

Clinton has emphasized her

Washington experience — as first lady and then as a senator from New York — though she, too, calls herself the candidate of change.

"In this election, it is time to turn the page," Obama said Dec. 27. "In seven days, it is time to stand for change."

Obama, a senator from neighboring Illinois, is spending the final week of the Iowa campaign speaking to voters in small towns across the state. But one week before the Jan. 3 caucuses, he came to the capital of Des Moines, where representatives of the world's media were gathered, to deliver his "closing argument" speech.

It was overshadowed by news from Pakistan that former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had been assassinated.

Her death had the potential to bring terrorism back to the center of the presidential campaign, and Obama began his speech by mourning her loss and vowing that the United States "will be steadfast in our desire to end the types of terrorist attacks that have blighted not just Pakistan, but the rest of the world."

Obama's national co-chairman, retired Gen. Merrill "Tony" McPeak, the former chief of staff of the Air Force, also raised the killing in his introduction.

"The events of this morning bring back with great clarity how important these national security issues are," he said. McPeak supported President Bush in the 2000 election, Obama, continued to page 7

African head wraps to uplift the spirit

Daniela Caride

Surrounded by mystery books at the Egleston Square Branch Library in Roxbury, fashion designer Imani McFarlane stimulates her audience's imagination.

She folds, twists and drapes green patterned fabric around Bena-hla Earth's head. In less than a minute, the simple piece of rectangular cloth becomes an African head wrap built around the model's contained locks.

"They give you such a regal and such a dignified appearance. They have an amazing way to transform you," says Imani, who holds workshops like the recent Egleston Square

session to promote her products, popularize the art of African head wrapping and teach people how to adorn themselves.

"[The wraps] uplift your spirit, boost your self-esteem and also they enhance your beauty," she says.

During the workshop, Imani handles square, triangular and rectangular pieces of cloth to show the different kinds of head wraps people can create. She also presents pre-made head wraps, which are easier to drape.

"You cannot wrap a bad wrap," she says, meaning that people should be creative and trust their imagination

Wraps, continued to page 12



State Supreme Judicial Court Associate Justice Roderick Ireland (second from left) and his wife Alice Alexander (left) joined Lighthouse Hospice Foundation President Stephanie Harriston-Diggs (second from right) and FOX 25's Doug Meehan

at Club Longwood in Brookline for the foundation's second annual The Light of Compassion Gala, a fundraiser aimed at improving the quality of end-of-life care for hospice patients and their families. (Photo courtesy of Bishoff Communications)

What's INSIDE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ... 10-11
BILLBOARD ... 11

LISTINGS

BUSINESS DIRECTORY ... 14
CALENDAR ... 15
CHURCH GUIDE ... 16

PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL ... 4
OPINION ... 5
ROVING CAMERA ... 5

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED ... 18-19
LEGALS ... 17
REAL ESTATE ... 17-18