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(zoe ahl' uh tree) n. 1) the worship of animals.  
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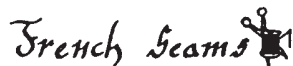
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## LAB

From Page 3

Chair Geoffrey Griffis said, "The opportunity for the ANC and applicant to address this ... hasn't been provided for." He also said the department's review states in a general way that it does not approve of private parking on public space, but it does not delve into the school's specific proposal.

Griffis suggested holding a limited hearing April 4 to allow the Transportation Department to present its case. "We will use all the force we can muster to have a DDOT representative here," he said.

## BOSSA

From Page 16

exposed brick wall. It's a very inviting atmosphere, with plush maroon Arabian-style couches and a friendly staff.

On this particular Saturday night, all the couches were packed (it was just before midnight), but I was drawn upstairs by the sound of Nayas playing one of my favorite Manu Chao songs, "Mr. Bobby," an ode to Bob Marley. Not surprisingly, there were other Manu fans jamming upstairs, singing along to the song, bobbing their heads and waving their hands. Even though it was a year before I would first see Manu

Chao perform live, Nayas' performance seemed familiar, as if it was Manu there with his band.

While the music may be the initial draw for the foot traffic on 18th Street, the food and drinks likely convince many to stay. As with its variety in terms of music, Bossa has a wide-ranging menu, filled with yummy South American and Persian comfort foods all made with organic ingredients and offered at surprisingly affordable prices. The drinks are also delicious. The name Bossa is a reference to bossa nova, the relaxing jazz music from Brazil. For that reason, the lounge pays special attention to its signature Brazilian drinks, caipirinha and mojitos.

Griffis emphasized the nature of the hearing to the parties. "This is a limited-scope hearing," he said. "It should take no more than 45 minutes or 60 minutes."

Mitten added that the school should "tighten" up its overall traffic-management plan. She said the plan notes carpooling and Metro shuttles as a part of its traffic-management plan, but does not specify numbers or make a commitment to follow its shuttle schedule.

Prince said it was "quite disconcerting" that dialogue with the Transportation Department did not happen in a timely manner.

Gates agreed. The neighborhood commission will hold a special meeting to discuss the school's proposed traffic-management plan March 16.

It's now been a little over two years since I first stepped foot into this delightful lounge. During that time, I've seen Nayas numerous times, as well other fabulous bands of all types — bossa nova, salsa and American and Latin jazz — and even stand-up comedy. When I had my 25th birthday party at Bossa, it was amazing how at home the staff made me feel. I was also there for New Year's 2006, when the lounge offered an amazing spread of Brazilian-style steak, hummus and veggies before the clock struck 12 and free champagne at the stroke of midnight. These are the moments I live for — and the reasons I call Bossa one of my favorite places in D.C.

## BUDGET

From Page 1

not the only school in the system experiencing difficulties. Although Mayor Anthony Williams is likely to propose an increase in the amount of money the school system gets for each student, the purchasing power of most individual schools will probably wane.

The mayor has indicated he intends to adopt an increase in the city's school funding formula of approximately \$400 per pupil. The new mark, about \$8,002 per student, is supposed to take into account the total cost of educating a single student, including teacher salaries, school supplies and athletic supplies.

But the mayor's raise does not fully account for some increased expenses, including rising labor costs. Over the past two years, staff raises have surpassed the expected rise in the formula, school officials said.

Members of the Board of Education said last week that they found the likelihood of schools having to cut staff troubling. They called on Superintendent Clifford Janey to work on alternative budgets that would reallocate more funding to the local schools.

Most board members agreed to pass an operating budget with a local-funds request for \$801,765,099 because school officials said the mayor needed a "mark" for the city's overall budget that evening, but a majority of the members present refused to sign off on a more detailed account of the budget. They said the school system needed to find more money in the overall budget for local school funding.

Two elected members, Jeff Smith and William Lockridge, voted against sending even an initial budget mark to the mayor. One of the board's student representatives, Janese Lewis, also expressed opposition.

Smith said he did not feel comfortable with the way the budget process had been handled. He said he did not have enough time to properly review the document, which he had received only 18 hours before.

Smith also said the system should have a better grasp on what schools need. "We give money to local schools and tell them to do what it takes to make it work," rather than asking them what they need, he said.

The superintendent intends to present a revised version of the budget at a yet-to-be-scheduled meeting. In the face of objections from board members, school officials made clear that schools will need to make cuts barring an unexpected budget increase.

"This year, because of revenue shortfalls, we have to make some very difficult choices," Janey said at the meeting.

"Our assumption was that schools would be reducing their staff [next year]," said Nicole Conley-Abram, the school system's director of resource allocations.

Many advocates said they believe the cuts should come from elsewhere.

Although the mayor is expected to give the school system about \$8,002 per student, the average school will receive only a little more than half — \$4,812 per student — to hire staff and purchase supplies.

Extra money is awarded to special-education students, "English-language learners" and those who qualify for free and reduced lunch, since it is assumed they will need extra services. Individual schools also receive money from federal grants and a stipend for custodial supplies based on the student population.

Outside of these allocations, the system's central administration remains in control of most of the funding. The central administration pays for many local school costs like textbooks, utilities and major facilities repairs and maintenance. And overall, about 35 percent of the central administration budget goes back to the local schools, said Conley-Abram.

But some board members seemed skeptical of the school system spending.

Board member Victor Reinoso pointed out during last week's meeting that approximately \$5 million had been set aside for four new parent resource centers next year. He asked why the allocation was so high when the centers called for only 20 staff members apiece.

He also questioned whether the administration should be considering renting or leasing commercial buildings for the new centers since so much excess space is available in local school buildings.

"I gather parents have indicated they do not want to be in DCPS space. ... But I am perplexed at the prospect of [renting commercial space]," he said.

School officials said no final conclusions had been made about the location of the parent centers, though commercial space had been considered. The centers are supposed to serve the entire community, and the school system wanted to place them in central locations.

Parents had said they did not want the parent centers to be located in school facilities because they might come to be identified with an individual school instead of a larger community, said Michelle Walker, the school system's chief of strategic planning and policy.

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