

# The Front Page

**THE FRONT PAGE IS A NEWSPAPER'S** front door. It's the first thing a reader sees. The stories that appear there are ones that will be talked about all day.

What makes a front-page story? Important news, of course, about decisions the president has made, wars that have broken out or planes that have crashed. But editors—the people who run newspapers—want a mix of stories. A good front page might also include articles about a come-from-behind sports victory,

a medical breakthrough or an ordinary person who has done something extraordinary—what's known as a "human interest" story. Photographs that grab the readers' eyes also are important parts of the front page.

The Washington Post's front page—also known as A1, the first page of the A section—starts coming together at a 2 p.m. meeting called the story conference. Post editors talk about the stories their reporters are working on and which ones seem like

good candidates for A1. Thirty minutes later they'll have a list of 25 to 30 A1 choices.

Editors spend the afternoon reading early versions of the stories. By 5:30 they've narrowed the stories to the seven or eight they think should go on the front page. The final decision is made at a 6 p.m. meeting—through if big news breaks, the front page can still be "ripped up" to make room for new stories. The front page will be tinkered with and improved all night long.

## Here's a look at all the bits and pieces that make up a typical front page. See if you can find them on today's front page.

**Nameplate:** This is the newspaper's name. It's also sometimes called the flag, logo or masthead. Traditionally, newspaper nameplates are printed in a fancy style called "black letter" or "old English." The design gives an air of authority to the newspaper and implies a rich tradition.

**Weather Bar:** For obvious reasons, the top corners of a newspaper page are called "ears." Little snippets of information are sometimes put here.

**Issue Number:** The Post began in 1877. But the day this paper was printed, Sept. 9, wasn't the 218th day of the year. So why does it say No. 2787? Because the first issue of The Post hit the streets on Dec. 6. Every Dec. 6 The Post adds another year and start counting again at 1.

**Editor:** There are at least three editions of each day's newspaper. That means stories and photos may be changed on different pages three times. The first edition—which would be marked here by an "R"—is called the Regional and Starts being printed at 11:15 p.m. The second edition is the Suburban, marked with an "S" and printed starting at 12:45 a.m. The third is usually the Final, marked with an "M2," printed beginning at 2:15 a.m. Sometimes there's an M1 before the Final.

The letters "DM VA" refer to how the paper is zoned. Since readers live all over the Washington, D.C., area, they're interested in all different things. Some papers delivered to Maryland and the District ("DM") have different stories than those delivered to Virginia ("VA"). You'll notice this mostly on pages in the Metro section. The front page is usually the same in all areas ("DM VA").

Sometimes you'll also see a "K" up here. That means there was a mistake on an earlier version of the page and it had to be "killed." That's newspaper-talk for replacing it with the correct page.

**Dateline:** Stories have a dateline if they were written by a reporter outside the Washington area. The dateline may include the date the story was written and the city in which it was written. If there is no date, the story is less than 24 hours old.

**Photo Credit:** The name of the photographer who took the picture, and the organization he or she works for, goes here. Graphic artists also get credits like this.

**Caption:** This is a sentence or two describing what's going on in the photo and identifying the person or people in it.

**Holes:** The newspaper starts out as one long, flat strip going through the presses. After it's folded vertically along the spine, it's pulled down to be cut by massive blades. Pins punch through the paper to pull it. Those pins leave marks at the bottom of every page.

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**Weather**  
Today: Mostly sunny, humid  
High 56, Low 70  
Friday: Partly sunny, humid  
High 60, Low 76  
Sundays, Page 88

**Redskins Open Season With 31-23 Victory Over Cardinals** | SPORTS, Page D1

**The Washington Post**  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

**ONE YEAR**  
**Aftermath of the Attacks**  
**A Wellspring of Grief, and Hope**  
**In a Gaping Crater, New Yorkers Find a World of Possibilities**

By Lauren Ducca  
Washington Post Staff Writer

**NEW YORK**—Life has turned to the World Trade Center's rubble. The site is a wasteland of twisted steel and charred remains. The city's skyline is a jagged silhouette against a gray, overcast sky. In the distance, the city's skyline is a jagged silhouette against a gray, overcast sky. In the distance, the city's skyline is a jagged silhouette against a gray, overcast sky.



**Spurrier Dazzles in Debut**  
**Coach Guides Redskins to a Season-Opening Win**

Redskins coach Steve Spurrier, left, and quarterback Shaun Hunshee celebrate a touchdown pass with teammates on the Atlanta Falcons field. Hunshee passed for 327 yards in four games with them.

By Thomas Brannen  
Washington Post Staff Writer

It was a perfect day for Steve Spurrier, the former Florida State coach who took over the Redskins coaching job today. He led his team to a 31-23 victory over the Atlanta Falcons in the season opener. Spurrier's first game as head coach was a triumph. He led his team to a 31-23 victory over the Atlanta Falcons in the season opener.

**Britain Closing Door to Afghans**  
**After Arduous Trip, Asylum-Seekers Face New Restrictions**

By Gareth Evans  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Britain is closing its doors to Afghan asylum seekers after a long and arduous process. The government has announced new restrictions on the number of asylum seekers who can be granted refugee status. This decision has caused significant concern among human rights organizations and Afghan communities in the UK.

**Sampras Aces U.S. Open Again**

By Kristian Dowling  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Andre Agassi was the defending champion, but Pete Sampras took the title for the 11th time. Sampras defeated Agassi in a thrilling final match. The victory solidified Sampras's status as one of the greatest tennis players of all time.

**A Divided D.C. Poses Challenge For Next Mayor**  
**Racial, Economic Gap Widens**

By D'Vera Cason and Charles Thurston  
Washington Post Staff Writers

The Washington area is facing a significant challenge as it prepares for the next mayoral election. The city is deeply divided along racial and economic lines. The widening gap between the wealthy and the poor has become a major issue for voters.

**FINAL**  
The Washington Post  
Monday, September 9, 2008

**U.S. Fears Low-Level Al Qaeda Attacks**  
**Scattered Followers Pose New Threat**

By Susan Staver  
Washington Post Staff Writer

U.S. intelligence officials believe that the remnants of Al Qaeda are still active and pose a significant threat. The focus is now on low-level attacks and the potential for a resurgence of the group.

**War Cabinet Argues for Iraq Attack**  
**Bush Advisers Cite U.S. Danger**

By Mike Allen  
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Bush's war cabinet is arguing for a military strike against Iraq. The administration officials believe that Iraq poses a direct threat to the United States and its allies.

**Headline:** This should give the story in a nutshell, letting a reader decide whether to read the article. Usually, the bigger the headline, the more important the story.

**Byline:** This is the name of the person who wrote the story. Just underneath is the title: **Agate Line/Credit Line:** If it says "Washington Post Staff Writer" or "Washington Post Foreign Service," an employee of The Post wrote the story. If it says "Special to The Washington Post," someone who doesn't work full-time for The Post was paid to write that particular story.

**Subhead:** Smaller than the headline, the subhead gives a little more information.

**Jump Line:** Stories started on the front page finish up on another page inside the A section. The jump line tells you on what page the story continues.

**UPC Code:** There's always a bar code at the bottom of the page, so the price can be rung up as the paper is swept across a scanner in the checkout line.

**Color Dots:** These are called NIRECO dots, after the company that makes the machine that uses them. All of the color images in a newspaper are made from four colors of ink. (Look at any photo with a magnifying glass.) The four colors are: yellow, magenta, an aqua-ish blue called cyan and black. But if the colors aren't lined up properly, the photos can look muddy or blurred. As the paper goes through the press, a video camera focuses on the NIRECO dots. If they're not in a perfect line, evenly spaced, the presses are adjusted.