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Posted November 25, 2007

Warren Gerds column SNC alumna, Sheboygan native receives leadership award

A former St. Norbert College student received the "Leadership in Education" award Nov. 2 from the American University in a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

She is Laura Schwartz, national political commentator and principal of the Chicago-based White House Strategies, a political consulting firm.

Schwartz participated in a program in 1993 at the American University through St. Norbert.

During the Bill Clinton administration (1993-2001), she was special assistant to the president and the White House director of events.

Schwartz represents the Democratic viewpoint as national political analyst for Fox News Network and speaks on political issues at colleges and universities.

Also honored by the American University was Bob Schieffer of CBS News.

Schwartz is a native of Sheboygan and a graduate of Plymouth High School.

- Change in plans: TC Martin of Green Bay, who trained this fall with the Harlem Globetrotters to be a traveling announcer, has changed his mind about joining the tour.

"When they tacked on the military tour and going over to Iraq and Kuwait, it was a little bit too much," said Martin. "That wasn't part of the deal when we originally spoke."

Martin, who was a radio sports host locally on WDUZ and WNFL, said he would continue in boxing and entertainment ventures.

"My agent always has some stuff happening, and we're talking back and forth," Martin said.

The U.S. tour of the Globetrotters starts Dec. 26. The tour abroad started Nov. 15 and continues to Dec. 20.

- Working on movie: Former Green Bay resident Rick Singer is part of a new production company that has acquired the rights to produce and is in the process of developing a theatrical film based on the life of singer Eva Cassidy.

Singer, 50, graduated from Green Bay Preble High School. He resides in California.

Singer produced HBO's "Rebound" starring Don Cheadle and "This Ain't BeBop" starring Harvey Keitel for PBS' "American

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Wisconsin native Laura Schwartz and Bob Schieffer of CBS News received honors recently from the American University. Photo special to the Press-Gazette Advertisement

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Playhouse," and his wife, Susan, and daughter, Joey, were featured in the 1993 Michael Douglas film, "Falling Down."

Cassidy was little known outside of her native Washington, D.C., prior to her death in 1996 of cancer at age 33. She has since become something of a legend, with her posthumously released albums selling more than 4 million copies.

Principals with Singer in AIR Productions are Amy Redford (daughter of Robert Redford) and Irwin Shpiro.

- **Rockin' plan:** Lessons on rock 'n' roll history and music appreciation are headed to classrooms in a joint effort of MENC: The National Association for Music Education, Scholarship and musician-actor Steven Van Zandt through his Rock and Roll Forever Foundation.

The goal is to launch "Little Steven's Rock and Roll High School" in middle and high schools in the 2008-2009 school year.

As a musician, Van Zandt is best known as a member of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band. As an actor, he's best known as a member of "The Sopranos" cast.

Participating schools will receive a free package containing teacher lesson plans, reproducible student pages and accompanying DVDs, CDs and posters, with additional materials and more information available online.

Warren Gerds writes about arts and entertainment for the Press-Gazette. Write to him at P.O. Box 23430, Green Bay, WI 54305-3430 or e-mail wgerds@greenbaypressgazette.com.




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