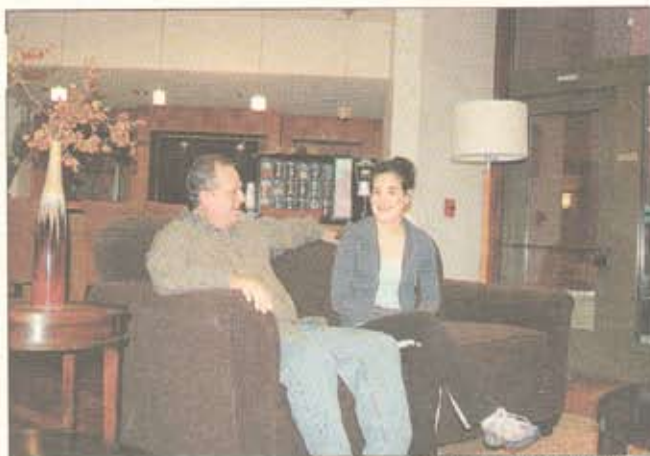


APARTMENT **LIVING**

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 Apartments for Rent
 Roommates
 Houses for Rent

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2007



PHOTOS BY SARAH BRUNZEL FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Michael Bailey and his family chose the Jefferson at Thomas Circle for its location close to the action of downtown. "We like the architecture. It is not just one of many," said Bailey, shown here in the building's club room with his daughter, Courtney.

A New Angle on Downtown

A Slice of Quiet Luxury Amid the Bustle of Thomas Circle

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A Peaceful Corner In Midst of Downtown

By SARAH ABBUZZESE
Special to The Washington Post

When the Bailey family moved to Washington from California, they chose urban life.

It wasn't out of any aversion to the suburbs, said Michael Bailey, 48. Rather, he and his wife and teenage daughter figured it was an opportunity to find out what the District was all about and to be in walking distance of monuments and museums.

They found the lifestyle they wanted at Jefferson at Thomas Circle, a new 292-unit apartment building just a block off Massachusetts Avenue NW in downtown Washington. The building offers elegantly designed apartments, state-of-the-art appliances and an easy walk to stores and restaurants in a neighborhood that has gentrified rapidly.

"The growth and the opportunity is right here," said Bailey, a resident since November. "We are far enough away from the hustle and bustle of 16th Street and K Street, but we are close enough to those amenities."

"We are reinventing ourselves," said Bailey, who lives with his wife, Lynn, and daughter Courtney, 19, in a three-bedroom apartment. They have another daughter who is a student at the University of Maryland. "We like the architecture. It is not just one of many," he said of the 10-story building, which also has three levels of underground parking.

Lorraine Pace, 24, moved into her junior one-bedroom apartment at the end of October. "I love it so far," she said. "I mean it is brand new, so that is definitely one of the most exciting things about it. My unit is amazing because I look out on the courtyard." Some of the apartments have small private courtyards while others have terraces or balconies.

A fountain in the courtyard is not yet finished, Pace said, but when it is, "I am sure it will be nice."

There are dozens of floor plans in the building, so the options vary. They include fireplaces, oversize soaking tubs, plantation shutters

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BY SARAH ABBUZZESE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Courtney Bailey works out in the fitness center at the Jefferson at Thomas Circle. The dance floor allows her "just enough space to practice doing turns or jumps," said the dancer. "It's just like a real dance studio."

Washington's Monuments and Museums at Their Doorstep

JEFFERSON, From Page 5

and walk-in closets.

"I looked at some of the other buildings," Pace said. "This was definitely the cheapest, and I think the layouts of the rooms were better — more space for less money."

The kitchens come with black appliances, black granite countertops and maple cabinets. They have ice makers, dishwashers, garbage disposals and electric cooking. The entryway, kitchen and bathrooms have ceramic tile; the rest of the apartment is carpeted.

Pace said her friends have been really impressed with her apartment and its luxury fittings. "It is brand-new, and I am so young; most people aren't able to do that yet," she said.

Courtney Bailey, 19, is a dancer who works out in the building's gym nearly every day. The dance floor allows her "just enough space to practice doing turns or jumps, and the mirrors are great, too. It's just like a real dance studio," she said while using one of the treadmills.

She was surprised at how private the building feels. "It's really quiet. You would think it would be really loud from the street, but it's not," she said.

Pace, who doesn't own a televi-

JEFFERSON AT THOMAS CIRCLE

1301 M St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
202-216-2955

- **APPLICATION FEE:** \$50 per person 18 and older.
- **SECURITY DEPOSIT:** From \$300 to one month's rent, depending on credit; refundable.
- **AMENITY FEE:** \$350, one-time, nonrefundable.
- **LEASE TERM:** Seven to 16 months with no short-term premium.
- **UTILITIES:** Residents pay for electricity and water.
- **AMENITIES:** 24-hour concierge, resident lounge, courtyard, 24-hour

fitness center, 24-hour business center, conference center, rooftop pool and deck, barbecue grills, dishwasher, microwave, icemaker, garbage disposal, in-unit full-size washer and dryer, storage units available for rent.

■ **PARKING:** Garage spaces for \$200 per month and tandem spaces for \$300.

■ **PET POLICY:** Maximum of two cats or one dog allowed; dogs must be less than 45 pounds. Refundable deposit of \$400 per pet and nonrefundable fee of \$400 per pet both due at move-in. Monthly pet rent is \$35 per pet.

APARTMENT SIZE	QUANTITY	SQUARE FEET	MONTHLY RENTAL
Jr. 1BR/1 BA	36	593 to 747	\$1,795 to \$2,060
1 BR/1 BA	135	685 to 870	\$1,930 to \$2,430
1 BR/1 BA/Den	19	975 to 981	\$2,685 to \$2,905
2 BR/1 BA	14	857 to 910	\$2,525 to \$2,675
2 BR/2 BA	80	1,020 to 1,266	\$2,950 to \$3,555
3 BR/2 BA	8	1,380 to 1,470	\$3,735 to \$4,205

sion set, frequently uses the community room, where there are four flat-screen TVs. "You bring food and drinks and [have] few TVs on," she

said. "You feel like you are out at a bar but not dealing with the hassles of that."

She said she feels secure in the

building. It has controlled access and a 24-hour concierge. Residents have two deadbolt locks on their doors for added security. The building has a sprinkler system and fire alarm system that "talks," said Kristie Malacki, the building's operations manager. If there is a fire, the system will broadcast alerts to residents.

Pace said the garage has provided her a safe, secure and easily accessible place to keep her car. She transferred from a job in New Jersey to work for the same company in Springfield. "I am right there, close to [Interstate] 395. I can head out and have the reverse commute," she said.

And she comes home to a fun neighborhood. "Most of the area is pretty walkable," she said, noting that because the weather had been so nice for much of the winter, she has been able to explore Chinatown, Dupont Circle and the Farragut Square area.

"I wanted to be in the city. I lived in the suburbs most of my life, and I am still young. I figure now is the time to move to the city," she said.

Brian Reed, 47, moved into a one-bedroom apartment with an "interesting" layout about two months ago. He said he was attracted by the angled interiors, all the extras and



BY W.A. CHRISTNER — THE WASHINGTON POST

the high-end appliances. Now he's a fan of the surrounding area, too.

"I just didn't realize how much D.C. had to offer," Reed said. "I guess I really did not have an appreciation for how compact it was." He said he hasn't taken his car out of the garage. People around the region, he said, should "take a second look" at his new neighborhood. "The transformation of this little area, Thomas Circle, is just amazing."