

CityPaper WASHINGTON

NY Times Headlines 1990 2005

By Ryan Grim

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If ever there was an art installation that could lure the policy wonks and political junkies down from Capitol Hill, it's A.J. Bocchino's NY Times Headlines (1990–2005). For the past 15 years, Bocchino has removed the main headlines from the Times and laid them out in chronological order on two large canvases. At Hemphill Fine Arts, the canvasses face one another in a roughly 4-foot-by-9-foot rectangular room. The headlines are color-coded by topic: yellows for scandals and politics, reds and oranges for war and other man-made miseries, blues and purples for domestic social issues, and greens for relations with countries not involved in a war with us. But the spectrum does more than document world events; it reveals cultural shifts, as well. The end of the first Bush presidency and Clinton's first six years appear on the canvases as a rainbow of diverse topics. Then comes the Monica Lewinsky era and block after block of yellow headlines, which only give way to the reds of the second Bush. The show is on view from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (to Feb. 25; see City List for other dates) at Hemphill Fine Arts, 1515 14th St. NW. Free. (202) 234-5601. (Ryan Grim)