

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

Current Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)  
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) September 9, 2004

THE WASHINGTON POST COMPANY

Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	1-6714 (Commission File Number)	53-0182885 (IRS Employer Identification No.)
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1150 15th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. (Address of principal executive offices)	20071 (Zip Code)
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(202) 334-6000  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable  
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended  
to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant  
under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the  
Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the  
Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b)  
under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c)  
under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Section 5 - Corporate Governance and Management

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election  
of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers

Item 5.02(d) Election of Directors

(1) On September 9, 2004, Melinda Gates was elected to  
the Board of Directors of The Washington Post Company.

(2) None

(3) None

(4) None

Section 9 - Financial Statements and Exhibits

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

Item 9.01(c) Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press Release dated September 9, 2004

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of  
1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on  
its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

The Washington Post Company  
(Registrant)

Date September 9, 2004

/s/ John B. Morse, Jr.  
(Signature)  
John B. Morse, Jr.  
Vice President, Finance

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
Exhibit 99.1	Press Release dated September 9, 2004

September 9, 2004

MELINDA FRENCH GATES ELECTED A DIRECTOR OF THE WASHINGTON POST  
COMPANY

WASHINGTON - The Washington Post Company (NYSE: WPO) announced today that Melinda French Gates has been elected to the Board of Directors. Her election increases the Company's Board to ten members.

Along with her husband, Melinda Gates is co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which seeks to improve people's lives by bringing advances in health and learning to those who need them most.

In her role with the foundation, Melinda Gates works with local, national and international partners and foundation grantees to further the foundation's goal of improving equity in four areas: global health, education, access to digital information via public libraries and support for at-risk families in Washington State and Oregon.

Gates received a bachelor's degree in computer science and economics from Duke University in 1986 and a master's in business administration from Duke's Fuqua School of Business in 1987.

After joining Microsoft Corporation in 1987, she distinguished herself in business as a leader in the development of many of Microsoft's multimedia products. In 1996, Gates retired from her position as Microsoft's General Manager of Information Products.

Since then she has directed her energy toward the non-profit world. In addition to her role with the foundation, she is a former member of the Board of Trustees of Duke University and is a former co-chair of the Washington State Governor's Commission on Early Learning. She also serves on the Board of Directors of drugstore.com.

Bill and Melinda Gates live in Medina, Washington, near Seattle. They have three children.