

ShopTalk

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Extension 6803

Helping, One House at a Time

Eleven years ago, Kevin White, Production/Springfield Plant, saw a notice in The Post from a nonprofit organization in Montgomery County that was looking for volunteers. In 1990, the Christmas in April organization (now called Rebuilding Together) was opening an affiliate in the county and needed volunteers to renovate and repair homes for elderly and



KEVIN WHITE

disabled low-income homeowners. He admits that he wasn't looking to volunteer, "but I enjoy working with my hands and helping people, so I called."

"I was originally helping them set up their warehouse, because that's what I do here (at The Post)," said White. "I stopped for a few

years when my daughter was born and got back into it about three years ago. I really got involved by joining the board of directors and serving on an advisory committee. I am also an area coordinator responsible for supervising four houses that are being repaired on project day, which is the last Saturday in April. I make sure the work is done properly, that the volunteers have the right materials, and the right kind of help, if it is specialized work...it's being done by a skilled trade person like a plumber or electrician. On project day, I make sure that all the needed repairs are completed to our standards of workmanship."

According to White, Christmas in April expanded its home repair work beyond just a day in April and now helps people year-round in Montgomery County. The organization renamed itself Rebuilding Together with Christmas in April. In addition to renovating homes, the organization now also helps its clients to receive health and human services assistance from other county programs, such as Meals on Wheels. It also has a handyman program for small repairs, including installing new locks to make a house more secure. White works with the handyman program, because, he notes, "When small problems build up and are not taken care of over time, they can cause a home to become unsafe, unsanitary

and also cause a neighborhood to deteriorate."

White expanded his volunteer work three years ago when he also began volunteering for another, similar nonprofit organization called Hearts & Hands. Hearts & Hands is a Montgomery County-based organization that serves low-income, elderly or physically challenged homeowners by assisting them with home maintenance and repairs that they are unable to do themselves. They help with painting, carpentry, roofing, plumbing and yard work, with jobs ranging from a couple hours to several weekends.

"A lot of the people that are on the board of directors go to my church, so this being something I enjoy doing, I started working with them," he explained. "I am the vice president of community outreach, in charge of recruiting volunteers and overseeing the work projects we do in the community. I do the site visits to determine the repairs, work up the budget for each house, and many times I am the house captain in charge of the repairs being done to the house."

According to White, Hearts & Hands and Rebuilding Together work closely together. The organizations have formed a partnership that enables them to refer work and clients back and forth to each other

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More 20-Year Club

During the 20-Year Club reception on Monday, September 24, Editorial Page Editor **FRED HIATT** made remarks on behalf of the new members of the 20-Year Club, The Post's Class of 1981. Like many other new members, Hiatt came The Post after the *Washington Star* closed its doors in August 1981. The following is an excerpt made from Hiatt's remarks:

"I suppose like many people here this evening, I feel both: 'It can't be 20 years already' and: 'My first day at

sure was in scooping them—that is you—or us.

So back then it did not seem preordained that we would be here 20 years later - or that we would come to love and respect this institution enough to want to be here 20 years later. And so I've tried to think during the past few weeks and days what it is about this place that helped bring about that shift.

Yesterday morning I asked (columnist) **MARY MCGRORY** that question. When I asked, 'What do you love about the Post?'

Mary's first reply was, "**MARGO (HARTSO)** and **JOYCE (HARDY),**" at the newsroom message center. Which is certainly a big piece of it for all of us. But not quite all.

Everyone here has different stories but many of them are versions on the same theme: that there are great opportunities here if you want to grab them, that no one is going to hand

you anything but that if you take initiative and work hard and do a good job you can be here a long, long time and never stop growing or doing something new.

I guess the second essential fact of this place is the common dedication of the people who work here to what we do. I don't think that's ever hit me more than on September 11, when I walked through the newsroom and saw all the reporters who, without being called or asked, had

come in from vacations or book leaves to pitch in; and when I saw people in Security and Production and Circulation and Advertising working so incredibly hard to get out the extra edition that day and the extra copies of papers for the next few days. I think a lot of us during the past two terrible weeks have thought about how lucky we are to have work that is meaningful and useful to so many people; but part of that is also how lucky we are to be surrounded by co-workers who, usually without expecting any particular credit, take great pride in what we do.

Finally I would just mention that we are lucky in our family ownership. Again as with many people here I'm sure, it's impossible for me to think about the past 20 years without thinking about Mrs. Graham, and feeling sad that she's not at this affair, as I'm sure she would have been. But the values that she represented—dedication to quality, ironclad refusal to let business interests affect editorial judgments, and a certain humility in thinking about readers' in-



College Park staff **SUSAN GRAHAM**, Mailroom and **PHYLLIS GASKINS**, Administration are new members of the 20-Year Club.

terests—these values, that we sometimes may take for granted, are very much still with us. We could see them before September 11, when other newspaper companies were laying off workers and deliberately shrinking circulation, and the Post refused to do so; and we can see them in the total dedication since September 11 to getting the story right and presenting it completely. I don't think it would embarrass Mary McGrory if I reported that, after she talked about Margo and Joyce, the next person on her list was **DON GRAHAM**. 'I always feel happy when I see him coming,' she said. My guess is there aren't too many bosses who are talked about that way.

I feel the same way about Don, and about Bo, and about this newspaper. I'm happy to join the club, and I congratulate my fellow classmates, and I hope a lot of us are still around 20 years from now to get that second cufflink."



Editorial Page Editor **FRED HIATT** made remarks on behalf of the 20-Year Club's Class of 1981 at the reception on September 24.

The Post feels like a long, long time ago.'

When historians of journalism write the *Washington Star's* story, they usually tell it something like this: that the *Star* was Washington's dominant newspaper for many years; that it grew fat and happy and complacent; and that it therefore fell by the wayside. But as a cub reporter in 1981, that's not how things felt. We at the *Star* thought of ourselves as the scrappy underdogs; we thought of The Post as fat and happy and maybe even just a bit arrogant; our greatest plea-



DIANE DUBOIS and **DOUGLAS DYKSTRA**, Advertising, proudly display their yellow roses indicating they are members of the Class of 1981.

and coordinate work schedules and volunteers. He estimates that they are 12,000 homeowners in Montgomery County that need the type of home repair assistance offered by the two organizations.

In September 2000, White's volunteer work went beyond the boundaries of Maryland, when he and friend, **BRUCE PERRY**, who also works in Production at the Springfield Plant, took a week's vacation to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity International in Americus, Ga. The men worked 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day, building a three-bedroom rambler, one of 35 houses the organization's volunteers built that week. They were rewarded at the end of the week with a handshake from former President Jimmy Carter, a

supporter and volunteer for the organization.

White notes that he is able to volunteer for these organizations because the hours are flexible, although some weeks he may work 15 to 20 hours.

But, the biggest reason he volunteers is to do his small part in helping rid the world of poverty.

"We may not be able to stop poverty completely," he admits, "but we need to start somewhere. Without organizations like these, our communities would fall into such disrepair that no one would want to live there. When an elderly, low income or physically challenged person or family doesn't have the money or



PHOTO PROVIDED BY WHITE

White and **BRUCE PERRY**, Production/Springfield Plant, in front of the house they helped build in Georgia as volunteers for Habitat For Humanity in September 2000.

skills to do these needed repairs to their homes, the whole neighborhood suffers."

"The main thing that I like, when a job is complete, is the big smile (on the homeowner's face)," he added. "It always

puts a warm feeling in your heart when you finish and it's something that they may have been waiting for years to have done. They may have had a roof leaking for two to three years and they're just so happy that someone was able to help them out, because there's no

way they could have afforded a \$2,000 or \$3,000 roof."

For more information about Rebuilding Together go online to rebuildingtogethermc.org or call (301) 765-0943. The Web address for Hearts & Hands is HeartsandHands.org, or call (301) 947-5770. For information about Habitat for Humanity International go to habitat.org.

After September 11...

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, The Post included a full-page American flag in the next Sunday's newspaper, September 16, paid for by Kmart. Despite the shortage of flags at some local retailers, Post readers' are able to proudly display the flag on their homes, cars, and office windows.

This Sunday, October 7, The Washington Post Magazine is publishing a special 32-page issue of photographs commemorating the events of September 11. According to Magazine Editor **GLENN FRANKEL**, the issue is a tribute to the tragedy's victims and heroes. "In a quiet and somber way, we wanted to provide readers with something to hold on to...it has almost a spiritual feel to it," he commented.



The issue features the work of several Post photographers who took photos on the day of the terrorist attack and the weeks following. The issue was designed by Magazine Art Director **BRIAN NOYES**, and **TAMARA JONES**, a Fairfax Bureau-based staff writer, wrote the captions.

The Human Resources Department is providing assistance and information to employees who have been affected by the tragedies of September 11 in New York and Washington.

If you need to discuss your concerns, feelings, or the affects that these terrible events have had on your life, as a Post employee you have access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) administered through the Sheppard Pratt Health Plan. The EAP is available to employees for counseling on a short-term basis for up to six visits, at no cost to the employee. Employees can make an appointment to visit Sheppard Pratt at 1000 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 800 by calling x6398 and asking for Enid McKittrick. You can also talk to Sheppard Pratt staff by calling

1-800-765-0770. In addition, a counselor is available on Mondays, from 2 – 6 p.m. in the Northwest Building Health Center, call x7192, or stop by the center. College Park and Springfield Plant employees can contact their plant health center: College Park Health Center at x1180 or Springfield Health Center at x2240.

In addition, Sheppard Pratt has developed packets of information for employees, with topics including: coping with tragedy, dealing with traumatic events, the grieving and loss process and the critical incident. This information is available through the Human Resources Department on the 7th floor Northwest, online on the *IntraNED* home page, or through the health centers at the plants.

POST SCRIPTS

OPEN ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Health insurance open enrollment materials will be sent to employees' departments/offices this year during the week of October 22nd. The materials will not be mailed to the homes, as in previous years. More information will be forthcoming in *ShopTalk*, or call Benefits at x7171.

2002 DIARIES FOR SALE

The order forms for the Washington Post 2002 International Diaries are available in the Purchasing Department at the Northwest Building. The cost for black desk diaries is \$8.85 each. The black pocket diary is \$4.95 each. There is an additional cost for shipping and handling. For more information, call **HARRIET LEE** at x7111.



EUCKLAN MATTHEWS (center) with the roses she received from the Human Resources staff, including (l-r) **APRIL WALKER**, **JENNIFER LEGAT**, **EDNA HORNBERGER** and **TRICIA CASTRILLI**.

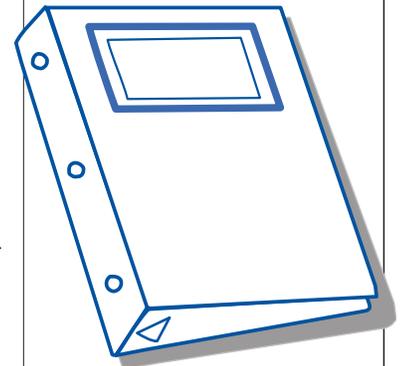
A FAREWELL IN HUMAN RESOURCES

Personnel administrator **EUCKLAN MATTHEWS**, a familiar face in the Human Resources Department, bid farewell to her friends and colleagues at The Post on Friday, September 21. Matthews moved across 15th Street from the Northwest Building to accept a job with the National Association of Home Builders.

OCTOBER TRAINING SCHEDULE

The Organization Development and Training (OD&T) Department will be providing the following workshops for employees during the month of October. For more information, or to register for a workshop call the OD&T hotline at x5425. You can also pick up a copy of the OD&T catalogue from the Human Resources Department on the 7th floor of

- the Northwest Building.
- October 10** - *Taking Charge of Your Career*
- October 16** - *Introduction to Excel 97*
- October 17** - *Brown Bag Session: Dealing with Grief and Loss in the Workplace*
- October 24** - *Communicating in the Workplace*
- October 25** - *Time Management*
- October 25** - *Introduction to PowerPoint 97*



MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE: Like new, 8.5' sofa and loveseat set; in perfect condition, sage, with very comfy back, arm, and seat cushions; less than one year old; will sell set for \$500/OBO. Set cost \$1,300 new, but too big for my small city apartment. Also, 15" color TV \$50. Black TV stand with video storage area; \$20. Seldom used programmable microwave; white in color \$45. New cushioned barstools; great for breakfast bar or den; \$15 each or all three for \$40. Ask for Tony at x7495 or call (202) 518-9076.

FOR SALE: Amazingly comfortable leather recliner, blue-gray in color. We hate to see it go, but it doesn't go with our new sofa. \$1,350 new; \$700 or best offer. Call Rita at x7088 or (301) 564-1414.

VACATION RENTAL: Get away to historic Williamsburg, Oct. 7-14. One bedroom condo, with fireplace, jacuzzi, LR, DR, full kitchen. Sleeps 4. Regularly \$150/night, \$800/week. Best offer. Call Scott at x6761 or (301)309-0983.

FOR SALE: 1971 Chevy Cheyenne pickup, shortbed, 350 automatic, pwr. windows and brakes, ac, 63K miles, original paperwork, \$10,500. Ask for Dave at x1275, or call (301) 574-0420.

FOR RENT: Spacious 1 BR basement apt. in private residence, Allison St. between 14th and 16th streets (2 bus lines), own entrance & laundry facilities, brand-new kitchen & bath, AC unit. Seeking nonsmoker, no pets, \$800/month, avail. immed. Contact Brian at x4342 or (202) 882-8502.

FOR SALE: Girls Little Tykes cottage bed, new over \$300, asking \$100. Professional grade food grinder, new \$200, asking \$100. Exercise station new \$100, asking \$40. Call Martin at x2282 or (703)866-5464.

FOR SALE: 8.5' long cream marble oval dining table (2.5' middle leaf removable) with 4 highback parson chairs (cream, jade and peach in color) and rectangular glass coffee table w/cream ceramic base—all for \$500 or best offer. Will need to pick up in Glen Dale, Md. Call Karen at x4511 or (301) 220-4136.

FOR FUN: Beta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. in conjunction with the Six Flags theme park is having a "Greek Day" on Sunday, October 21 from noon to 10 p.m. There will be a live band, Jack-o-Lantern and costume contests plus more than 100 rides, shows and attractions! Advanced tickets are only \$18.50 or regular price at the gate (\$35.99 plus tax) and proceeds will benefit Food & Friends, a nonprofit organization that prepares and delivers nourishing meals to AIDS victims as well as providing assistance with health care and daily living. For more information go to www.foodandfriends.org. Please come out and support this worthy cause. Contact Pamela at x44864 or (202)716-3974.

FOR RENT: Seeking female roommate to share a charming townhouse with three females in Arlington. Spacious 4 level, 4 BR, 2 BA, 2 half bath townhouse across the street from East Falls Church Metro. Only a 30-minute commute from home to The Post. Just \$600/month, including water and parking. Contact Anne x45776 or Jeni x45960 or contact us at home at (540)560-7394.

FOR SALE: Redskin Season Tickets, good seats in 400 section, 2 tickets per game \$1,040/OBO. Call Cassandra at x5851 or (301)808-9691.

FREE! FREE!: Ads in marketplace are free to employees of The Washington Post. Join thousands of satisfied customers who have bought and sold through Marketplace. The deadline is Friday at noon for the next Thursday's issue of *ShopTalk*. Send your ad with your extension and home phone number via e-mail to *ShopTalk*, or fax to x4963.

MARKETPLACE DEADLINE: Noon Fridays. Please include your *name, extension and home phone number*. **ADS ARE FOR POST EMPLOYEES ONLY.** Send ads to *ShopTalk*, 7th floor, or call x6803. To send ads via fax dial x5609; via e-mail send to **shoptalk**. Ads run two issues unless otherwise requested. One ad per employee, please.

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