

# SharpTalk

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## A Perfect Match

The following is a reprint of **COURTLAND MILLOY's** column that ran on page 1 of the Metro section on Sunday, November 25.

**D**id you hear about Martha and Warren? It's the talk of The Post's newsroom, but not the usual office gossip: Financial writer

Adam's rib story in reverse.

In a workplace with a reputation for being highly competitive and occasionally uptight, news of such an act of unconditional love for an unrelated co-worker has caused quite a stir among us hard-boiled reporters and editors.

"There is a sense of amazement at the depth of generosity," said Jill Dutt, The Post's assistant managing editor for financial news. "I've received tons of messages: 'What can I do to help?' 'Is there anything that they need?' 'Is there a fund set up for them?'"

Margo Hartso, a newsroom receptionist, said that when she heard about the kidney transplant, "all of my personal complaints suddenly became trivial."

On the outside, no two people appeared to be so different.

Brown, 53, is black and grew up in racially segregated Louisiana; Hamilton, 55, is white, and grew up in racially segregated Texas. He comes across as a conservative with a penchant for big business; she's described as a liberal who has a soft side for the

working class.

On the inside, though — where it truly matters — they were a perfect match. After several donor possibilities fell through, Hamilton renewed her offer of one of her own kidneys, and Brown accepted.

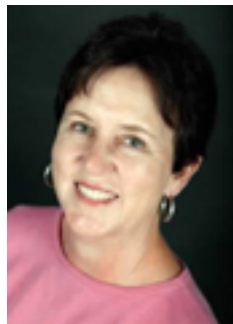
"Martha doesn't want to be perceived as courageous or anything," Dutt said. "The way she sees it, she was just doing a favor for a friend."

Said Brown in a telephone interview from his hospital room: "What Martha did was an unselfish act of love that transcends all of the labels, all of the political bull about 'diversity' and the rest of it. If you want to change an institution or anything else, you have to start from there. As the great religious leaders noted centuries ago, the hardest thing to do is love and the easiest thing to do is hate, and what we have done is build an entire culture around doing the easy thing."

Martha wasn't doing a liberal or conservative thing, a black or white thing," he continued. "She was helping a friend stay alive. She may not call it love because she's a tough Texas woman. But I call



WARREN BROWN



MARTHA HAMILTON

FILE PHOTO

PHOTO - TODD CROSS

Martha McNeil Hamilton gave "On Wheels" car columnist Warren Brown a kidney. Serious business.

They checked into Georgetown University Hospital last week, and by the time they'd checked out, Warren had been given a new lease on life, thanks to Martha. Sort of the

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# P&T Promotions and Transitions

**ARNIE APPLEBAUM**, Advertising, was named recruitment print manager in October. Previously, he was the sales manager for property management in Classified Advertising. Applebaum joined The Post in December 2000.

**RENATE BREVARD**, Accounting, was recently named to the position of office pay assistant in circulation accounting from reconciliation specialist in credit administration. Prior to joining The Post in January 2001, she worked in membership accounting for Kaiser Permanente.

**WENDY EVANS**, Advertising, was promoted to marketing manager for the national accounts unit at the end of October. Evans began her career at The Post as an MBA intern in the Advertising Department in 1999. In June 2000, she was hired as a technology sales representative based in the New York office and has received four sales awards for her achievements to date.



WENDY EVANS

PHOTO — CRAIG FAULKNER

**BOB FINE**, Advertising, has assumed the position of advertising budget manager overseeing the advertising budget and administration unit. A 23-year veteran of the newspaper, Fine began at The Post as a credit collector and progressed to his most recent role as manager of special sections.

**ED JOHNSTON**, Accounting, was named to the position of director of taxation, disbursements and fixed assets in September. Johnston joined the broadcast division of the Washington Post Company in 1981 and moved to the newspaper a couple years later as tax manager.

**BILL LIBERTI**, Information Technology, recently accepted the newly created position of director of IT Client Services. Liberti started at The Post in November 1988 as deputy director of newsroom technology and was named director of newsroom IT in January 2000.

**KRISTEN RAKER**, Accounting, was promoted to director of financial accounting in September. Raker originally joined the newspaper in 1994 as a budget analyst. She left to work with PriceWaterHouseCoopers and returned to The Post in 1999.



**ED JOHNSTON** and **KRISTEN RAKER** were promoted in Accounting.

**RICHARD REED**, Circulation, recently moved to the position of central records agent. A Post employee since 1980, he was previously a circulation service representative.

**JOHN TEEUWS**, Advertising, has been named international advertising category manager effective January 1. Teeuws joined The Post in February and is currently an international advertising manager.

it love because I know that kidney came from the heart.”

(By the way, Warren and Martha are recovering nicely, and Warren is obviously sounding like his old self again.)

As Post reporters, Brown and Hamilton cover two of the most cutthroat beats in business: retail sales and the automotive industry. But beneath their no-nonsense demeanor are two people who never lost sight of the real bottom line.

“Warren is my good friend,” Hamilton said from her hospital room. “I sit next to him, and we help one another.”

Brown and Hamilton joined The Post more than 20 years ago. Along with veteran business writer Frank Swoboda,

they occupy a cluster of desks known as “the elderpod.”

“The three of us have always gotten along well,” said Swoboda, a former assistant managing editor who hired both Brown and Hamilton for the business staff. “We’re always there for one another, in good times and bad.”

It was Brown’s second kidney transplant. The first donation had come from his wife, Mary Anne, but the procedure did not go as well as they had hoped. Brown and Hamilton are planning to write an in-depth article about the experience for The Post’s Health section next month.

But for now, it should at least be acknowledged that something profound has occurred in the annals of Post

newsroom employee relations, which are legendary for being rife with all sorts of tensions. Other workplaces no doubt have people who engage in similar acts of courage and generosity — indeed, The Post has written about many of them — but this one is ours, and it feels good.

“People are flabbergasted,” Swoboda said. “Warren’s daughter came up to me and said, ‘I don’t have friends like that at work.’ And I just said, ‘Well, you ought to go out and get you some.’”

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According to **FRANK SWOBODA**, Brown and Hamilton are now both at home, resting and recuperating and doing really well.

## Child Care Benefits

The Washington Post provides an emergency child care benefit to all regular full-time and part-time employees who have children between the ages of three months and 12 years-old.

Provided through the Lipton Child Care Center at 655 15th Street, NW (at F Street), the benefit provides for well child care when normal child care arrangements break down unexpectedly or become temporarily unavailable. Reasons for using the center may include school holidays or snow days, or when your caregiver is sick or on vacation. The cost is \$25 per child, per day and lunch is provided. The center’s hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Compensation and Benefits Manager



**STACEY JUNGREIS**, reminds parents to plan ahead to use the center. Before a child can be enrolled in the center, a preregistration packet must be completed including a immunization certificate signed by a physician.

Reserved space is on a first-come, first-served basis and must be confirmed by one of the Lipton Child Care Center’s staff members. The reservation number is (202) 638-5222. For more information, contact the Benefits Department at x7171.

In addition, The Post provides customized child care and parenting referrals through Life/Work Strategies, Inc. This service provides referrals (not recommendations) for child care centers, before and after school care, nursery schools, nanny and au pair agencies, and other child care needs based on your preference for hours, cost, location, etc. There is no cost for this service, which is intended for use only by Post employees and spouses.

This free benefit also provides you with advice and information on toilet training, sleeping and eating problems and many other parenting issues. Employees can call Life/Work Strategies at (301) 309-1510 or (800) 876-1510, or the Benefits Department at x7171 for more information.



## POST SCRIPTS

### DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPALS

The Post honored 17 area school principals at the 2001 Annual Distinguished Educational Leadership Awards (DELA) on Monday, November 26 at the Northwest Building. Modeled after the Agnes Meyer teacher awards, the DELA was established in 1986 to recognize the vital role of principals in the educational system. This year's winners

were cited by their students, teachers and colleagues for the way they handled communications in their schools on September 11 and for being strong leaders. Each teacher receives a crystal school bell and a trip to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands for media and crisis communication training and an opportunity to network with principals from around the Washington metropolitan area.

Chairman **DON GRAHAM** and Publisher **BO JONES** congratulate DELA winner Lois Atkins, principal of Mary Walter Elementary School in Fauquier County, Virginia.

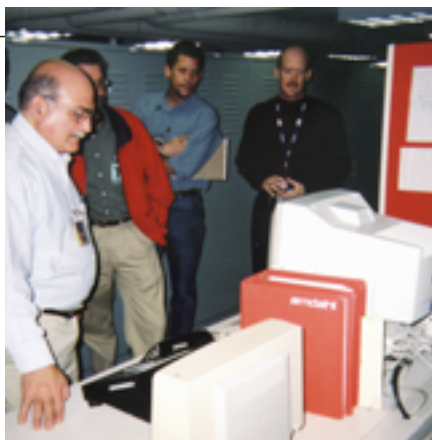


PHOTO - JUDITH JOHNSON

IT Department staff (far right, l-r) **JAMES SPAITH** and **DAVE NESS** watch as **MIKE NAJARIAN** is about to push the button that officially ended the use of mainframe technology at The Post. The Amdahl mainframe was shut down by IT on November 15. The shutdown completed the transition from the older technology to newer, more flexible client/server technology for the newspaper's systems.



### TOYS FOR TOTS

Join Ned the Newshound and the Eastern High School choir for The Post's annual holiday celebration outside the Northwest Building on Tuesday, December 18 from noon to 2 p.m. Employees may bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Marine Corps' Toys For Tots program. Donations may also

be dropped off during business hours at the Public Relations Department on the seventh floor of the Northwest Building. For more information, contact Public Relations at x7969.

### DONATE BLOOD

The next bloodmobile at the Northwest building is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12 in the 9th floor community room from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Donors should make an appointment by calling the Health Center at x7192.



## MARKETPLACE

**HELP THE VICTIMS:** An NYPD organization is selling T-shirts and sweatshirts commemorating the rescuers who died in the World Trade Center attack. All profits go to the NYPD Widows and Orphans Fund, which now includes 23 families and 35 kids who lost relatives in the attack. Cost - \$20 and \$30. I have samples. Orders taken through the end of the year. Call Anne at x5426 or (703) 533-0420, or send e-mail to [fergusona@washpost.com](mailto:fergusona@washpost.com).

**FOR SALE:** Yamaha F310 acoustic guitar like new. Includes case-\$75. Sega Dreamcast package: system, 5 games, 1 virtual memory unit, 2 controllers-\$150. Nintendo 64 package: system, 4 games, Gameboy transfer unit, 2 controllers-\$115. Call Paul after school at (703) 276-0587.

**FOR SALE:** Queen Ann dining room suite w/china closet, table, 4 chairs, \$400/OBO. Med. size dog crate, \$35 and small wood table w/2 chairs, \$25. Call Nancy at x6977.

**FOR SALE:** Way cool, antique, vintage and funky holiday gifts, including dishes, linens, barware, books, furs, jewelry (men's' /women's, real/costume), clothing scarves, bags, political memorabilia, vases and lots of 'tchotchkes. Call Annie at x47553 or (202) 362-2663. Can be viewed by appt. through January 1 at 3340 Northampton Street, NW, in D.C.

**HELP THE HOMELESS** — Recycling will help the homeless. Bring in the travel-size toiletries you picked up on vacation and also any large or boot size shoeboxes, bring to Barbara Hudson in Accounting or call x6229 or (301) 593-3422.

**HOLIDAY NUTS:** Guaranteed fresh pecan halves for the holidays. Easy to freeze, delivered to your office, \$5/lb. Proceeds go to the Lions Club's work with the blind and poor. This is the 23rd year of the sale! Call Veronica at x5214 or Benner at (804) 973-5727.

**FOR SALE:** 1980 Mercedes Benz 450, V8, silver gray exterior, tan leather interior, pwr. doors, sun roof, new tires, 127K miles, asking \$4,500/OBO. Call Victor at (202) 291-0052.

**FOR SALE:** white round patio table w/4 chairs, \$40, 3 pc. wall unit, oak trim, \$300; 6 high back padded parsons dining rm. chairs, \$35 ea.; blue leather recliner, \$500. All excellent condition. Call Rita, x7088 or (301) 564-1414.

**FOR SALE:** Laptop computer, Dell Inspiron 8100 (6 months old), Pentium 3, 850 MHz processor, 128 RAM, 20 GB Hard drive, CD-R burner, floppy disk, 56K modem, 3 year warranty (next day parts & labor mail-in service) and phone support, Windows 2000, Office 2000 and other bells and whistles. Also includes a mouse and a travel bag. Asking \$2,500, but willing to sell parts, if necessary. Call Marc at x47071, Curtis/Marc at (703) 780-5658 or e-mail Curtis at [reverdy@hotmail.com](mailto:reverdy@hotmail.com) for more information.

**FOR RENT:** Apt. in Logan Circle area, 1BR, walk-in closet, balcony, security, walking distance to Post. Underground parking included. \$1,250 mo.+ electricity. Call Andre x7673 or (202) 289-6727. Avail. Jan. 1

**FOR SALE:** 1999 Cadillac Delanceage, loaded, 39K, leather, asking 20K. Call Lloyd at x6960, or Henry at x4335.

**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 Shop Talk, 7th floor, or call x6803. To send ads via fax dial x4963; via e-mail send to [shoptalk](mailto:shoptalk). Ads run two issues unless otherwise requested. One ad per employee, please.

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