

# ShopTalk

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Editor, Lisa O'Donnell Connors, x4-6803

## Goodbye George

After 31 years at The Post and holding the distinction of being the longest-serving assistant managing editor (AME) in the newspaper's history, **GEORGE SOLOMON** stepped down as AME of Sports on June 1. Former Deputy Sports Editor **EMILIO GARCIA-RUIZ** is succeeding Solomon.

Executive Editor **LEN DOWNIE** called Solomon "the best and most influential American newspaper sports editor of his time," when he announced the management change in Sports.

Solomon spent his entire career at The Post on the Sports Desk and estimates that as AME he has overseen the publication of 11,120 Sports sections. He was hired as a reporter and columnist in June 1972, became an assistant news editor in 1974, and was named AME in 1975. Solomon received The Post's Eugene Meyer Award in 1999 for his distin-

guished service at the newspaper.

Although he is leaving his position, Solomon is not leaving The Post. After a long vacation that will include a cruise to Alaska with his wife, Hazel, Solomon will return to the Sports section as a columnist. His weekly column will begin running in August. Solomon will also be teaching sports journalism at the University of Maryland and is completing an anthology on his mentor, the late Post sports



Assistant Managing Editor of Sports **GEORGE SOLOMON** retired June 1 after 28 years of overseeing The Post's sports coverage.



George Solomon received a standing ovation at the All-Met Awards lunch. Standing next to him are (l-r) **MORGAN WOOTTEN**, former DeMatha High School boys basketball coach; **MILTON COLEMAN**, deputy managing editor; **DON GRAHAM**, chairman of The Post, and **Cal Ripken**, former Baltimore Orioles shortstop.

columnist, Shirley Povich.

Credited with having one of the most diverse and talented Sports staff in the country, Solomon said "the most gratifying part of my job has been helping reporters, columnists and editors grow and do the things that brought them to their potential, and trying to put out a good sports section every day."

"I haven't seen every sports editor in history and I don't know if George is the best sports editor a newspaper ever had, but that is what he seems to me," noted Chairman **DON GRAHAM** in his

comments at Solomon's retirement reception.

Not long after news that Solomon was retiring appeared in the A section of The Post on January 10, his friends, colleagues, peers, as well as local and national sports figures began honoring Solomon with a series of awards, receptions and even a "jaunt" to celebrate his many contributions to sports journalism.

On May 16, more than 60 Post staff attended a surprise "Jaunt with George" that was

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PHOTO - PROVIDED BY SOLOMON

# Speedier Proposals

**P**resto! Advertising sales representatives can now create quick, complete and accurate proposals for their clients at home, at a client's office or from their desk at The Post. The IT and Advertising departments have teamed together to create the Sales Quote Generator (SQG). This web browser based software program located in *Intranet* enables the sales staff to create customized proposals incorporating all of the newspaper's advertising products, including inserts, the Magazine, zoned editions, display ads, special sections and more. Online sales will be included in a future phase of the project.

The SQG has streamlined what was once a time consuming manual process of creating customized proposals for advertisers, according to **SUSAN DRADDY**, director of

the business development unit (BDU). "The Sales Quote Generator is a rate calculator, quote and proposal tool that was designed to allow the sales reps to design professional proposals and save a lot of time in the process," she said.

"The Sales Quote Generator standardizes all the proposals coming out of The Post, instead of each sales rep designing their own," added **JOE TEIPE**, BDU sales manager and Advertising's project team leader. "It also helps to get our new sales staff up to speed faster." In addition, the proposals will be archived so that a new sales representative can review past proposals previously presented to an advertiser.

**PAUL WADE** has led the IT project team that designed the



The IT and Advertising team leaders responsible for the implementation of the sales quote generator include **DIANE REEDER**, (l-r) **JOE TEIPE** and **PAUL WADE**.

software program that was modeled after online insurance quote providers. Working closely with **DIANE REEDER** in the Advertising Systems Unit, Wade and the IT staff created the program and tested it thoroughly to make sure it would be both easy to use for the sales representatives and create accurate proposals. The project, which began in mid 2001, went live on *Intranet* on May 9. Training on the SQG

wrapped up this week, with 20 training classes running through April and May.

Advertising staff that contributed to the development of the SQG in addition to Draddy, Reeder and Teipe include **JIM BREEN**, **LaVERNE JOHNSON**, **HWA KIM**, **DAVID DeJESUS**, **PETE McCORMICK**, **SHEILA RAINEY**, **ALICIA HAMILTON**, **PORTIA DUNMORE**, **DENNIS OLNEY**, **TERI PARKER**, **KIM FAULKNER** and **GAYLE PEGG**. **SANDY YEILDING**, Marketing was also a part of the team.

IT Staff involved in the project led by Wade include **HENRIK JENSEN**, **HEBA ELBAROUNI**, **KANDAN JAYARAMAN**, **PAULO GONZAGA**, **GREG GRIEFF**, **TRACY SOFORENKO**, **FRANK HARRIS**, **RON RUSSELL**, **JOHN SPARGO**, **RAJ KOLLURI**, **TOM BURKE**, **MATT VORSE**, **ROGER PIANTADOSI** and **CLARE FENNESSY**. ■

## Byelines

**T**he Eastern High School 500 Club's members and Post mentors gathered on Friday, May 23 in the 9th floor community room for a lunch to honor the club's graduating

**DON GRAHAM** is presented with a "Sweet 16" birthday cake.



seniors. During emotional speeches, the students thanked their Post mentors for their time and efforts. The seniors also paid a special tribute to Chairman **DON GRAHAM** for supporting the scholarship and mentoring program for 16 years with a song and presented a "Sweet 16" birthday cake. Graham announced during his comments that 93 percent of the 2003 senior class of Eastern High School is going to college - the highest percentage in the history of The Post's

partnership with the school.

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**T**he 1st Quarter 2003 Marketing Excellence awards were recently announced by Vice President of Marketing **MARGARET CROMELIN**. The award is given quarterly to a manager or non-manager in the Marketing Department who demonstrates performance excellence. The award winners



Outstanding Marketing staff include (standing l-r) **RICH HANDLOFF**, **SUSAN HEYMAN**, **BONNIE WARNER**, **MIKE GREENBERG**, (seated l-r) **JEFF GIUFFRIDA**, and **DAVE BARIE**.

included **RICH HANDLOFF**, **SUSAN HEYMAN**, **BONNIE WARNER**, **MIKE GREENBERG**, **JEFF GIUFFRIDA** and **DAVE BARIE**. ■

organized by Assistant Sports Editor **BONNIE BERKOWITZ**. Wearing T-shirts adorned with Solomon's face, the staff assembled at the corner of 15th and L streets to greet Solomon and more than 20 colleagues accompanied him on his weekly run through the District's downtown streets.

Sports figures and celebrities from across the country joined Post colleagues at a reception to honor Solomon that was held on May 29 on the 3rd floor of the Northwest Building. Emceed by Shirley Povich's son Maury Povich, the evening included former Redskins player Darrell Green, Baltimore Ravens owner Art Modell, president



Solomon (center) poses with many of the women he hired in Sports during his retirement reception on Thursday, May 29.

of Washington Sports and Entertainment Susan O'Malley and broadcast journalist Connie Chung. Several area high school coaches and past and present Sports staffers were also in attendance.

Solomon closed out his AME season with the annual All-Met lunch held on Mon-

day, June 2 at the Grand Hyatt hotel in the District. Former Baltimore Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken and recently retired DeMatha High School boys basketball coach Morgan Wootten were the featured speakers at the lunch which honored this year's high school All-Met athletes

chosen by The Post. Deputy Managing Editor **MILTON COLEMAN** presented a special award to Solomon at the lunch for his support and coverage of high school sports.

"It has been a blast," commented Solomon. ■



Sports columnist **TOM BOSWELL** toasts Solomon's contributions to *The Post* at Solomon's retirement reception.

## Odes to George

**"What a manager! From high schools to the pros, for men and women, George's sports section has always been a great read."**

— Bo Jones, *Publisher*

**"Nobody in this newsroom has worked harder or been more dedicated to our journalistic mission than George Solomon. Nobody has produced more real stars. Nobody has given us more laughs. Nobody has been a more supportive colleague and friend. And nobody has been more difficult to manage. Although he is leaving newsroom management, George will still be here in a new role, which guarantees more good and interesting times ahead."**

— Len Downie, *Executive Editor*

**"George seems to have the energy reserves of a 12-year-old – and, some might say, an attention span to match. Lucky for us – and him – we get a new set of blank pages to fill up every day."**

— Matt Rennie, *assistant sports editor*

**"One day, I was wearing an old Washington Senators baseball cap. George told me I was too young to be wearing that. So, I named the whole starting lineup for the 1969 team. He said, 'OK, so you might know a little something.'"**

— Sam Jones, *Building Services*

**"When George was trying to decide between going out to lunch and sending someone flowers, he always said that lunch was better, 'cause you can't eat flowers.'"**

— Jill Grisco, *Solomon's assistant from 1981-85 and current newsroom facilities manager*

**"George has always been the kind of boss you could laugh with and argue with. Often both at the same time."**

— Sally Jenkins, *sports columnist*

**"When George sees me across the room, he always yells, 'Hello, Cici! I like it! I love it!' George is a good man, kind, always happy. I like his attitude. He is an excellent person."**

— Cecilia Rodriguez,  
*Northwest Building Cafeteria*

**"When he would say three words: 'you did well.' I think I enjoyed hearing those three words over just about any I've heard in all my years in journalism..."**

— John Feinstein, *sports contributing writer and columnist*

**"George hired me for a part-time job when I was pregnant. He told me then that he felt he was making a decision for the long term for the paper, and the fact that I was having a baby wasn't an issue. He helped me balance my career and my family for nine years before I was ready to go full-time."**

— Effie Dawson, *Extra sports editor for Howard and Anne Arundel counties*

**"A lot of us not only have a degree in journalism, but a degree in George!"**

— Rachel Nichols, *sports writer*

Many thanks to **ELISSA LEIBOWITZ**, Metro, for her contributions to this article. ■

## PostScripts

### Shakespeare Free For All

Employees can get free tickets to see *Hamlet!* Mark your calendar to attend this year's Shakespeare Free For All running May 29 through June 8 at the Carter Barron Amphitheater. The Post's Family Night is scheduled for Saturday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m. and that performance will be sign-interpreted and audio described. Free advance tickets for only the Family Night performance are available to employees through the Public Relations Department. Up to four free tickets for all other weekday performances will be available at the Northwest building's front counter beginning at 8:30 a.m., the day of the performance only. Tickets will also be available on the day of the performance beginning at noon Tuesdays through Sundays at the Carter Barron box office or at the



Shakespeare Theatre at 450 7th Street, NW. If you have any questions, contact **LISA JACZKO-BOLTON** at x4-7970.

### What's Your Key Idea?

Do you have a key idea that could save The Post money, time or both? To submit your key idea, or to learn more about the program go online to *intraned/keyideas*, or contact **CLIFF KAYSER**, the Key Idea Program coordinator at x 4-6656, or e-mail *keyideas/washpost.com*.

### ISO Graduates

ShopTalk is looking for information about Post employees who have earned bachelor or masters degrees in Spring 2003. Please send information including name, department, extension and home number, as well as degree earned and school name to *ShopTalk@*


## We Need Your Input!


Under the new Key Ideas cost-saving initiative, the following two proposals have been made concerning the production of ShopTalk:

1. Eliminate the paper version of ShopTalk with the possible exception of a small quantity for employees who don't have online access to Intraned. (ShopTalk is currently posted on *Intraned* each week.)
2. Eliminate the coated stock that ShopTalk is now printed on since it became a color publication. (Since coated stock is necessary to print ShopTalk in color, acceptance of this idea would mean that ShopTalk would go back to being a black and white publication.)

As one factor of our evaluation of these proposals, we would most appreciate receiving feedback on the impact that implementation of these Key Ideas would have on your use and enjoyment of ShopTalk.

Please send your response to these Key Ideas by Friday, June 20 at noon via e-mail to *ShopTalk@washpost.com*, or send a hard copy in writing to ShopTalk Key Ideas c/o the Public Relations Department, 7th floor, Northwest Building, or fax to x4-4963.

  
**LISA JACZKO-BOLTON**,  
Public Relations Manager

  
**TED LUTZ**,  
Vice President/Business Manager

*washpost.com*. A list of recent graduates will be published in an upcoming issue of ShopTalk.

### Correction

**JONATHAN PADGET's** name was misspelled in the May 22 issue of ShopTalk.

## Marketplace

**MOVING SALE:** Antique pine bed with almost antique double mattress, \$350. Drexel cabinet with two doors, off-white with walnut top, \$125. Round end table with two doors white with beige marble top, \$75. Drexel Walnut Server (60's vintage) \$150. Drexel coffee table \$150. Whirlpool gas dryer (almond) used 4 years, \$75. Framed Thai Temple Rubbings \$60 a pair, Large Peruvian weaving \$35. E-mail me at for pictures or call x4-4320 or (301) 977-8458.

**FOR RENT:** One BR apt. in The Cairo, 1615 Q. St., exposed brick, 24-hour desk, roof-top deck, available end of June, \$1,400 plus electric, sorry no pets. Contact Jill at x4-7516, or (301) 565-9115.

**FOR SALE:** 2001 Toyota ForeRunner SR5, 21,500 miles. Leather, wood finish, sunroof, CD, power windows, keyless entry and more. Excellent cond., only \$24,200. Call Nadeem at x4-6474 or (301) 949-1531.

**ROOM FOR RENT:** Room with private bath in Herndon, Va., non-smoker, professional male, no pets, near bus stop, security deposit/references, \$400/month including utilities. Call Margaret at (703) 742-9690.

**FOR SALE:** Last chance!!! Vacation time at boardwalk resort in Virginia Beach, just opened in August 2002, oceanfront, indoor pool, 1BR, 2 sofa beds, kitchen. For the week of Sept. 6. Call Trinh at x4-4021 or (703) 658-2120 if interested. Price is very reasonable.

**FOR RENT:** One BR apt. available June 1. Upper Georgetown on Wisconsin Ave, indoor parking, secure building, new appliances, new building, CAC/heat, available June 1, \$1,100 month. Contact Maria at x4-4466 or call (202) 337-8818.

**FOR SALE-** Brand new, never used snowboard, boots & bindings. Package deal for \$350 (avg. retail \$850), K2 156 double-wide mountain board, blue/light blue pattern color, for people at 5'11 in. tall, size 12 Burton snowboard boots-soft blue in color. Ride strap in bindings silver and blue in color. Call Gordon at x4-9273, or (703) 282-7732.

**FOR SALE:** Redskins tickets, 2 tickets and parking for 5 games, \$790. Call Joe at x4-6299, or (301) 843-6477.

**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 x4-4963.

**FOR SALE:** Motorcycle, 2001 Yamaha V-Star 650 Classic. 2,600 miles, in perfect shape. Beautiful 2-tone paint, windshield, locking hard bags, engine guards, cover. \$4,950. Call Stephanie at (703) 431-3043.

**HOUSE FOR RENT:** Charming 2 BR house in a great AU Park neighborhood, Fessenden near Wisconsin Ave. Short walk to shops, subway, movies. Large yard, 4-car parking, porch, deck. Ideal for a couple. \$2,400/month. Available June 7. Call Francis at x4-7886 or Glenn Williamson at (202) 364-6966.

**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 x4-6803. To send ads via fax dial x4-4963; via e-mail send to *shoptalk*. Ads run two issues unless otherwise requested. One ad per employee, please.