

# ShopTalk

September 21, 2006, Vol. 32 No. 22

Editor, Mario I. Oña, x4-6803

## Post Employees Serving in Combat Zones

**F**rom American journalist David Pearl's tragic death in Pakistan in 2002 to Chicago Tribune correspondent Paul Salopek who was recently charged with espionage in Sudan, the risk level for a foreign correspondent is very high.

In spite of the inherent dangers, Post reporters and correspondents provide "outstanding coverage from the ground in Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan," as Publisher **Bo Jones** recently observed.

**Ellen Knickmeyer**, **Sudarsan Raghavan** and **Amit Paley** continue to report from

Baghdad (**Jonathan Finer**, **Josh Partlow** and **Nelson Hernandez** recently returned from Iraq).

**Anthony Shadid**, Beirut correspondent, and **Scott Wilson**, Jerusalem correspondent, received plenty of help covering the Israel-Lebanon war from other correspondents and reporters, including **Edward Cody**, **Nora Boustany**, **Doug Struck**, **Molly Moore** and **John Ward Anderson**. **Pam Constable** continues to report

primarily from Afghanistan and Pakistan, while **Craig Timberg** recently stopped reporting from Sudan.

The Post's **Howard Kurtz** so aptly wrote a few weeks ago: "For all the abuse heaped on journalists these days, it's worth remembering that there is a hardy band



The Post's Maj. **Jim Murray** (far left) with Maj. **Andy Myers** from South Carolina and an unidentified Iraqi soldier, village sheikh, an Iraqi boy and an Iraqi man taking in the shade in Hamdaniyah (Iraq).

PHOTO - COURTESY OF JIM AND KAREN MURRAY

been fantastic too, they post messages on his blog, send him emails, letters and care packages." (Murray's blog: [www.caringbridge.org/visit/jamesmurray](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jamesmurray)).

Whether it's **Dionne Cohee** and **Kathleen Dillon** from IT organizing

monthly care packages for Murray or the photo collage of foreign correspondents plastered on a newsroom wall, The Post is constantly reminded of their dedication.

Of note, Murray recently wrote an open letter to The Post about his experiences of living in a tent, interacting with the Iraqi people and listening to his iPod. The letter can be viewed on IT's page via *Intranet*. ■

**Greg Matisoff** from the *Foreign Desk* contributed to this report.



PHOTO - COURTESY OF ANTHONY SHADID

The Post's photojournalist **Andrea Bruce**, AME **Rajiv Chandrasekaran**, London correspondent **Kevin Sullivan** and Beirut correspondent **Anthony Shadid** at The Post Baghdad bureau in 2003.

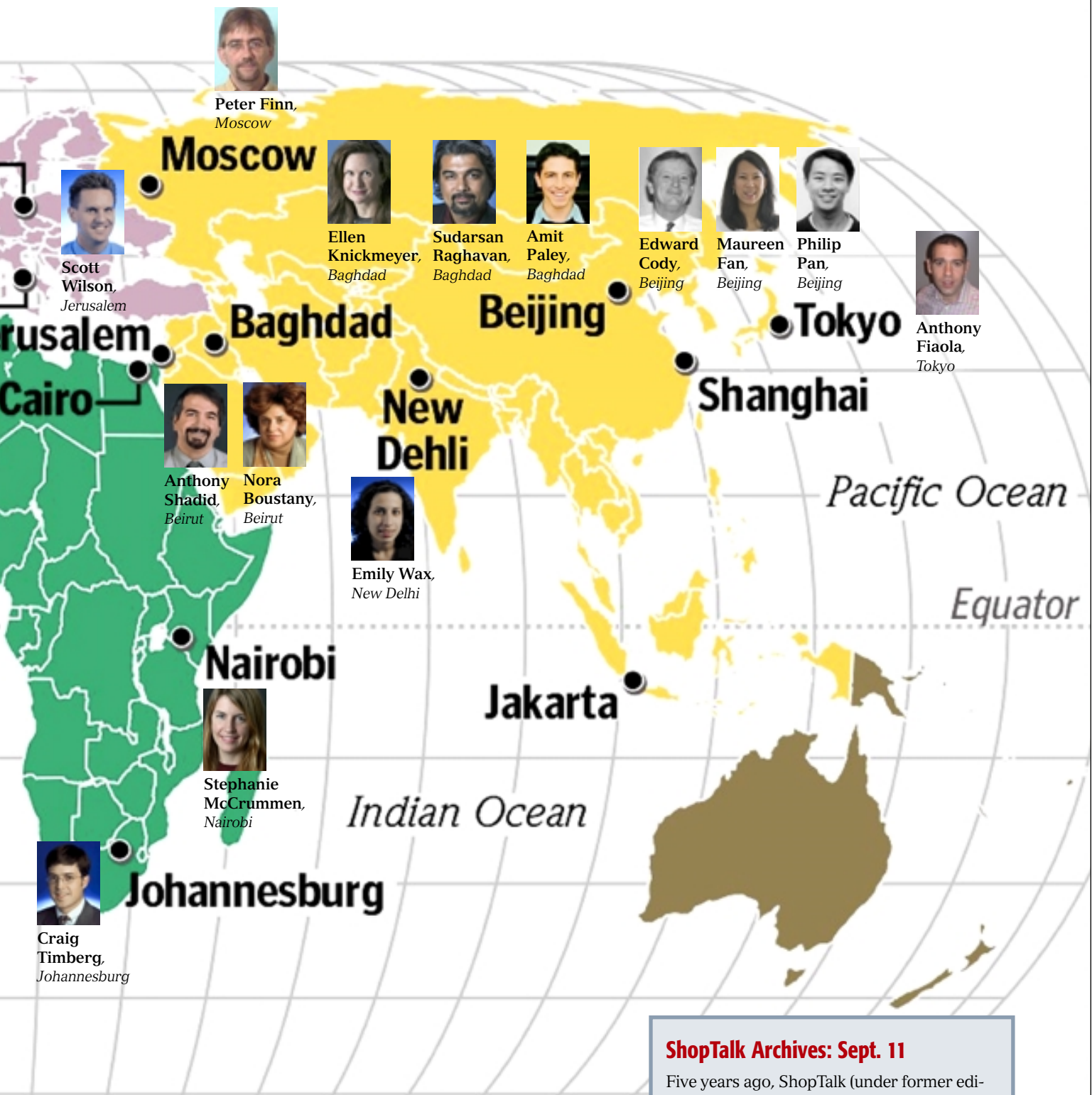
# Foreign Cor



PHOTO - COURTESY OF PAM CONSTABLE

Post reporter and Iraq-Afghanistan-Pakistan-roaming correspondent **Pam Constable** sporting a helmet and a flak jacket in one of Iraq's most dangerous cities: Fallujah. U.S. soldier not identified.

# respondents



Graphics by: Laris Karklis  
Permission granted by Foreign Desk

## ShopTalk Archives: Sept. 11

Five years ago, ShopTalk (under former editor Lisa Connors) observed the journalistic heroics of Post employees on its cover story: "The Post Meets Challenge of Extraordinary Day." The entire Sept. 20, 2001 issue covering the events of Sept. 11 and its impact on The Post will be available this week on *Intraned*.

## Highlights from Expanded Staff Meeting

Publisher **Bo Jones** opened last week's expanded staff meeting with slides depicting two different scenarios. In the first, a canoe skimmed peacefully over still waters. He then



**Bo Jones** speaks openly about the future of *The Post*.

credited **Ruben Rodriguez**, Public Relations, with providing the second, possibly more accurate image: a kayak maneuvering through white-water rapids, heading for a waterfall. Jones spelled out the message: "We're still an \$800 million business, but it's not easy coasting any more."

Jones went over Advertising and Circulation year-to-date results, as well as progress on major technology projects and cost-reduc-

tion measures.

He commented on the outstanding coverage leading up to and including the local elections in the District of Columbia and Maryland and on the remarkable coverage on the ground in Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Jones spent the bulk of his time talking about *The Post's* overall strategy for future growth. He said, "Life is changing very quickly, and we need to continue paying close attention to what our research tells us and what our readers and advertisers are saying." He emphasized the importance of the newspaper's mission of providing the public with high quality news and analysis on important affairs of the region, nation and world. Sustaining *The Post's* journalism, he added, requires "a large, profitable, growing group of interrelated economic enterprises."

President and General Manager **Steve Hills** concluded the session by delineating the strategic priorities and some of the specific initiatives that support the strategic vision and principles.

**Jill Dutt**, AME/Financial, updated the group on what has happened with the Daily Source, the proposed new section that was under consideration. She reported on the effect of several focus groups previewing the prototypes this summer. The results led to the conclusion that, rather than starting a new section, the better course would be to strengthen the existing Home, Health and Food sections and to add more consumer-oriented content proposed for the Daily Source elsewhere in existing sections of the newspaper, making the entire paper "a stronger daily magnet for our readers."

**Jennifer Moyer**, WPNI's COO, provided a brief update on local initiatives on [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com) and talked about upcoming interactive launches. She highlighted the launch of Washington Post Mobile, which users can access through Web-enabled mobile devices ([mobile.washingtonpost.com](http://mobile.washingtonpost.com)) without the need to sync up to a docking station.

The strategy emphasizes maintaining strong local audiences and advertising marketplaces, a commitment to innovation and developing the capabilities that will take *The Post* successfully into the future.

## Black Family Reunion

On Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9 and 10, the twenty-first annual Black Family Reunion took place on the National Mall. The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) organized the event with Freddie Mac. The Post, one of the festival's participating sponsors, set up a booth with various Post employees, including reporters, donating their time to meet and greet attendees. Dr. Dorothy Height of NCNW started the event in 1986 to counter negative publicity regarding African American families. The event attempts



*The Post* in attendance at the Black Family Reunion on the National Mall. (Back row, left to right): **Donald Washington** (Advertising), **Keith Alexander** (Metro), **Dion Haynes** (Metro). (Front row, left to right): **Athelia Knight** (News/Educational Programs), **Cheryl Thompson** (News). (Bottom): **Emil Robinson** (Intern and possibly future *Post* employee)

to raise awareness about education, economic development, health and employment, as it affects African American families. Dr. Height is pleased that over the years the celebration has continued to grow and continues to diversify and unite all families, not just African American ones.

## Marketplace

**FOR RENT:** Large one-bedroom condo in Gaithersburg near Shady Grove Metro. First floor unit with walk-out patio, separate dining area, large galley kitchen, plenty of storage space and full-size washer and dryer. \$1150 per month, plus one-month security deposit. Call Yasmine at x4-7622 or e-mail at [mo1074@yahoo.com](mailto:mo1074@yahoo.com).

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** If you've determined it's not what you eat, but how that's your biggest obstacle, you're not alone. Join other folks who want to discuss their struggle and share what works and what doesn't. Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meet on Fridays between 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church at 4512 College Ave. (one block from Route 1 and Baltimore Avenue, across from University of Maryland in College Park). There is also a Thursday night session at the same time and place in which OA literature is read and discussed. For more information contact Megan at 301-982-1622.

**FOR SALE:** Don't miss out on the concert of the year! The Virgin Festival at Pimlico on Saturday, Sept. 23 in Baltimore featuring The Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Who, The Flaming Lips, Gnarl Barkley, The Killers, The New Pornographers, The Raconteurs and several other bands. Two tickets available at cost or best offer (one parking pass included). Call Mark at x4-5367 or 703-629-6291.

**NEW MARKETPLACE DEADLINE:** **Noon THURSDAYS.** Please include your name, extension and phone number. Ads are for *The Post* employees only. Send ads to ShopTalk, 7th floor, or call x4-6803. To send ads via fax dial x4-4963 or to email send to [shoptalk@washpost.com](mailto:shoptalk@washpost.com) or [onam@washpost.com](mailto:onam@washpost.com). Ads run for two issues unless otherwise requested. One ad per employee. ShopTalk reserves the right to publish or edit all ads.