

# ShopTalk

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Editor, Mario I. Oña, x4-6803

## “Proliferation of Education and Information” *Reaching the Remotest Parts of the World Through Internet*

Some people are reluctant to donate their time or money to charity, when the impact of their goodwill is not transparent. Self-taught software engineer **Bart Solowiej**, IT, doesn't have that problem.

Solowiej, 25, recently took vacation and helped connect a small indigenous town, which sits 8,400 feet above sea level, to the rest of the world. Though it's a 10-hour bus ride from Guatemala's capital of

high speed Internet at a high school in the Mayan town of San Mateo Ixtatán.

The Emory University economics and mathematics graduate who traveled to Guatemala under the auspice of the Ixtatan Foundation based in Charlottesville, Va., said that he saw an opportunity for the “proliferation of education and information.”

“There are very few educators willing to travel that far and live there,” Solowiej explained. “So this provides a model for an alternative way to educate not just in Guatemala, but any remote location in the world.”

“Guatemala is a fascinating place because the government recognizes the potential,” he added. “They are in the early



(Left to right): Kay, Janior Real, Beth Neville Evans (Ixtatan Foundation director) and **Bart Solowiej** (IT) taking a rest where the mountains touch the sky.

PHOTO - BART SOLOWIEJ

Solowiej who started at The Post in October 2005 said, “I want to get the message out to The Post. There's such a wonderful and amazing opportunity to help there.”

For more information about how you can help bring education to the far corners of

Guatemala and possibly the world, visit [www.ixtatan.org](http://www.ixtatan.org). ■

stages of a very robust infrastructure for delivering information. They already have high school courses and degrees that are earned through a radio broadcast.”

Although he was there for two weeks, he wishes he could have stayed longer. He realized that without educating people on the systems, the computers are “just boxes.”



PHOTO - BART SOLOWIEJ

Education at the highest level: San Mateo Ixtatán High School in Guatemala is located approximately 8,400 feet above sea level.

the same name and he had an almost prohibitive budget of \$150 per system, Solowiej installed 23 computers with



PHOTO - BART SOLOWIEJ

An Ixtatán man and two children who one day may be able to receive education and get connected to the rest of the world through high speed Internet.

# The Post's Eastern High School 500 Club turns 20

On Nov. 14, The Post celebrated and kicked off the twentieth year of sponsoring Eastern High School's 500 Club. Apart from pairing up volunteer mentors from The Post with outstanding student protégés from Eastern, The Post rewards students who maintain a 2.5 GPA or higher with a \$500 scholarship per semester. The accumulated amount gets sent directly to the respective college upon graduation. In order to remain in the club, students have to attend mandatory programs set up by The Post that are designed to supplement the students' education.

With the full support of Chairman **Don Graham**, The Post "adopted" Eastern High School in 1986. Over the past 20 years, the newspaper has



*Publisher **Bo Jones** chats with Eastern High School 500 Club member Delonte Moore and his mentor, Vice President **Lionel Neptune**.*

donated over \$2.1 million in scholarships and assisted 1,241 students. Graham and Publisher **Bo Jones** were both present to greet, welcome and have lunch with the students, mentors and school teachers who make the program possible.

After an ice-breaker session conducted by **Peter Joseph** from Organizational Development and Training, the attendees were treated to

lunch in the Multipurpose Room at the Northwest Building. Graham welcomed the students and acknowledged the importance of the teachers and Post employees

who volunteer to mentor the students.

At the recommendation of **Arthur Fuller** from IT, motivational speaker Janice Ferebee was invited to give the keynote address. Ferebee, who has been recognized nationally by Oprah Winfrey is president of Ferebee Enterprises International—a non-profit organization that focuses on promoting adolescent self-esteem. As the stu-

dents, mentors and teachers finished lunch, Ferebee captivated her audience with an enthusiastic and energetic interactive session that was more participatory than a one-way keynote address. Walking around the room and asking questions, she projected the same assertiveness and self-confidence that she instructed the students to always demand.

Anyone interested in finding out more or wanting to become a mentor or volunteer for the 2006-2007 school year (it's never too late) should contact **David Jones**, 500 Club program manager, at x4-4917 or at [jonesdj@washpost.com](mailto:jonesdj@washpost.com). ■

## Distinguished Educational Leadership Awards 2006

Eighteen area principals were recognized as the 2006 Distinguished Educational Leadership Award recipients during a ceremony in The Post's Northwest Building auditorium on Nov. 20. Approximately 325 guests—one of the largest crowds in years—including superintendents, school board members, PTA representatives, past DELA winners, students, awardees' families and friends were present. Chairman **Don Graham** and Publisher **Bo Jones** recognized each winner during the program. The ceremony was followed by a reception in the Multipurpose Room.

The award was established in 1986 to recognize principals who go beyond the call of duty to provide an exceptional learning environment for their students. Apart from recognition, each deserving principal is given a Tipperary crystal bell and is invited to a media and crisis communications seminar in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. ■



PHOTO - RUBEN RODRIGUEZ

DELA 2006 recipients (Left to right): **Front row:** Joanne Uyeda (Abingdon Elementary School-Va.); Rhonda Gray Pitts (Bladensburg Elementary School-Md.); Carol L. Leveille (Mary H. Matula Elementary School-Md.); K. Marguerite Conley (Annunciation School-D.C.); Diana L. Strohecker (Millersville Elementary School-Md.); Margaret A. Huckaby (Heritage High School-Va.). **Middle row:** James D. Stemple (Mountain View High School-Va.); Kimberly Summers (Dynard Elementary School-Md.); Linda Trexler (Neabsco Elementary School-Va.); Gladys Camp (Thomson Elementary School-D.C.); Susan B. Johnson (Calvert High School-Md.); Lucretia M. Jackson (Maury Elementary School-Va.). **Back row:** Dale S. Rumberger (South County Secondary School-Va.); Nelson McLeod (Newport Mill Middle School-Md.); Craig Carscallen (Southeastern Alternative School-Va.); John E. Lensch (R. C. Haydon Elementary School-Va.); Steven Lockard (Tuscarora Elementary School-Md.); Thomas M. Saunders (Elkridge Landing Middle School-Md.)



## Post Sponsors and Participates in First Annual National Ethnic Media Awards Ceremony



PHOTO - FIREU RETTA

Executive Editor **Len Downie** presents a reporting award to *Cristina Loboguerrero* from *El Diario-La Prensa* during the first National Ethnic Media Awards ceremony.

The first annual National Ethnic Media Awards ceremony took place on Nov. 14 at the Mayflower Hotel. The event was presented by the California-based ethnic media organization New America Media, and The Post was both a sponsor and participant.

Apart from Executive Editor **Len Downie** presenting an award for best investigative

(in-language) reporting, New America Media Executive Director Sandy Close also asked **Athelia Knight**, director of The Post's Young Journalists Development Program, to invite student journalists to the event. A total of eight students, three teachers and nine employees from The Post and *El Tiempo Latino* attended the ceremony and dinner.

Of note, Yimy Sanchez from *El Tiempo Latino* received an honorable mention in the "best youth voice" category for an article titled, "Crossing Borders to Conquer My Dreams." ■

*Editor's Note: Student photojournalist Fireu Retta from Theodore Roosevelt High School in D.C. under the tutelage of Maurice Butler who advises their student newspaper, The Rider Times, contributed Len Downie's photograph above.*

## Pee Wee Titans Live Up to Their Name

Head Coach **Rick Sykes** from The Post's College Park pressroom achieved the unimaginable when he led his South East Titans to the D.C. Championship and then to the semi-final Eastern Regional Championship in Lebanon, N.J. in the Titans' first year of existence.

Sykes, along with coaches Harold Morton and Coach Acey, first led their Pop Warner Football League Pee Wee Division team to a 9-1 record, before winning the D.C. Championship for the 95 to 110-pound weight class.

Sykes's impressive run should come as no surprise. In his 19 years of coaching several teams in different weight classes, he's built a reputation for winning by leading five teams to championships. ■



COURTESY OF HAROLD MORTON

Head Coach **Rick Sykes** (center), Production, with his superb South East Titans.

## First Book Club Luncheon

The Post Book Club regularly organizes events designed to reach out to the community and allow Post subscribers—particularly those who regularly read the newspaper's 35-year-old critically acclaimed Book World weekly book review section—an opportunity to meet and greet famous authors. On Nov. 14, The Post opened its Northwest Building auditorium doors to the public with an opportunity to first listen to authors **Erik Larson** and then **Alice McDermott** during lunch.

"Today was the first time we've held the event as a luncheon," explained Book World Editor **Marie Arana**. "It was the first time we've held it at such intimate quarters so that attendees can truly feel they've met and had

**Erik Larson** autographs a copy of his latest book, "Thunderstruck."



time with the authors."

Following lunch, both authors entertained questions and concluded by shaking hands with attendees and autographing their books.

The event was well attended and organizers from Marketing and News intend on repeating similar luncheons in the future. Past events, typically held in the evening, have included bringing famous authors like Isabel Allende and John Updike. Post employees can attend these paid events that are



**Alice McDermott** discusses her new book, "After This: A Novel" during the Book Club luncheon in the Northwest Building auditorium.

open to the public at the same discounted price available to Post subscribers. ■

## PostScripts

### ShopTalk Suggestion Boxes Available Now!

Suggestion boxes are located in the Northwest Building cafeteria and at both plants. Post employees can submit general questions, suggestions and ShopTalk story ideas — anonymously if preferred. The ShopTalk editor will sort through the entries, pick out the most recurring questions and after soliciting a response from the appropriate person, publish the response in a future ShopTalk issue. Every effort will be made to address most questions or concerns. Contact x4-6803 or [onam@washpost.com](mailto:onam@washpost.com) or [shoptalk@washpost.com](mailto:shoptalk@washpost.com) with any questions.



**United Way**  
of the National Capital Area

### United Way Contributions Deadline Extended: Dec. 15

Contact your chairperson or United Way campaign chair **Lionel Neptune**, vice president of Affiliates, with any questions or concerns at x4-4228 or [neptunel@washpost.com](mailto:neptunel@washpost.com).



### Cookies and Books for a Great Cause!

All proceeds of the upcoming Annual Cookie and Book Sale on Dec. 6 in the Multipurpose Room (Northwest Building) will benefit N Street Village—a complex of living quarters for homeless women. The village, located in Logan Circle, was founded by Luther Place Memorial Church.

The Post's event coordinators are still looking for bakers—novice, experienced or somewhere in the middle—to donate something to this worthwhile cause. Baked goods can also be bought and donated, if preferred. The event is from 1 to 4 p.m.

To help or to donate something, contact **Aimee Sanders** at x4-6748 or [sandersa@washpost.com](mailto:sandersa@washpost.com)

### 2007 Post Holidays

The Post will observe the 2006-2007 holidays on the following dates\*:

Dec. 25, 2006 - Christmas Day  
Jan. 1, 2007 - New Years Day  
Jan. 15, 2007 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday  
Feb. 19, 2007 - President's Day  
May 28, 2007 - Memorial Day  
July 4, 2007 - Independence Day  
Sept. 3, 2007 - Labor Day  
Nov. 22, 2007 - Thanksgiving Day  
Dec. 25, 2007 - Christmas Day  
Jan. 1, 2008 - New Years Day

*\*Dates may vary according to department, employment status or job position.*

### CPR Classes at Health Center

The Health Center (Northwest Building) will offer CPR classes on Wednesdays, Dec. 6 and 13. Ellen Herdman, RN, will provide instruction. Two sessions per day: adult CPR will be at 9 a.m. and adult/infant/child CPR will be at 4 p.m. Classes last two to three hours and will take place in the fitness center's exercise room. Call x4-7192 to reserve a seat.

## Marketplace

**FOR SALE:** The Washington Post Store final merchandise holiday blow-out sale event will take place on Friday, Dec. 1 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. Everything **MUST GO!** 65 -75% off on clearance items! 50% off on new merchandise! Cash, credit and checks accepted. Contact Nicole Marshall at x4-6874 or [marshallnd@washpost.com](mailto:marshallnd@washpost.com) or visit: [www.washingtonpoststore.com](http://www.washingtonpoststore.com).

**FOR LEASE OR SALE:** 2 BR, 2BA patio home in Heritage Hunt, Gainesville, Va. Top 55+ community in the country. With 2-car garage, gas fireplace, upgraded kitchen, plenty of storage space, washer/dryer, ceiling fans, slate patio backing to green space. Lease: \$1395 per month (property owner responsible for homeowner's association fee covering phone, cable, trash removal and all community amenities). Will Sell for \$335,000 (negotiable). Available immediately. Contact Ellen Gerhard, x4-7762.

**FOR SALE:** 2006 White House Xmas ornaments—I'm selling them as a fundraiser for my son's daycare center. They are \$18 each and I have them at my desk if you'd like to see one. Contact Liz at x4-6545. ([http://www.whitehousehistory.org/01/subs/01\\_a.html](http://www.whitehousehistory.org/01/subs/01_a.html))

**FOR SALE:** Bunk bed from The Great American Bunk Bed. Like new. Paid \$700, asking \$300 obo. Includes bunkie board and ladder. Contact Robin at 202-547-5385 or x4-7005.

### NEW MARKETPLACE DEADLINE:

**Noon THURSDAYS.** Please include your name, extension and phone number. Ads are for Post employees only. Send ads to ShopTalk, seventh 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 and edit all ads.