

ShopTalk

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Editor, Mario I. Oña, x4-6803

Meet the E-Streeters

Q&A with E-Streeters President Al Manola

For most Post employees, The Washington Post E-Streeters need no introduction, but for many of the new folks (including this editor): you can't afford not to know who they are. These retired Post employees—mostly from the newsroom—who take their name from when The Post was on E Street are walking time capsules and treasure chests full of rich, unearthed Post history and anecdotes.

When The Post moved to its current location on L Street in November 1950, a few members of the newsroom saw it fitting to get together from time to time and reminisce about their days in the E Street building—the same place where **Eugene Meyer** purchased the almost defunct Post for \$825,000 at a bankruptcy sale on June 1, 1933. As the years passed, the informal social club began to formalize under the leadership of former religion editor, Robert Tate “Bishop” Allan. They started putting out a

newsletter and having luncheons at the Press Club regularly. At a reunion dinner on June 10, 1976 (the next meeting after Bishop Allan's passing on Oct. 25, 1975), the group made up of 175 paying members formally adopted the name, “Washington Post E-Streeters.” **Felix Cotten** was then president.

Today, E-Streeters President **Al Manola**, 94, spearheads the club with the help of his vice president, **Stan Stavinsky**. A few days after their recent biannual luncheon at The Post on Nov. 10 with guest speaker and Columnist **John Kelly**, Manola answered some questions and shared some stories about the E-Streeters:

ShopTalk (ST): *How long have you been president?*



E-Streeters President Al Manola gives his opening remarks as guest speaker and columnist John Kelly, looks on during the most recent biannual luncheon at The Post.

Al Manola (AM): I was elected when the past president, Felix Cotten, had a stroke. This was about 19 to 20 years ago.

ST: *How many current members?*

AM: Our mailing list is down to about 80 people with about 40-50 attending the luncheons. When people were a little younger, they used to travel from all over the U.S. to attend our luncheons. They're elderly now,

so it's mostly local E-Streeters that attend. Most of our members are in their '80s and older.

ST: *Do you have any plans to have someone else continue with E-Streeters once most of the members are too elderly, sick or have passed on?*

AM: Well, I plan to live until I'm 100. (Laughs) Some of the E-Streeters' widows were and are an integral part of what we did and what we do. I imagine many of them will continue, but after that, I'm not sure. I can see other folks wanting to have a sort of 'ol' timers' club like we did, but I'm not sure if they would want to continue with the E-Streeters.

PHOTO RUBEN RODRIGUEZ

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Bradlee Shares War Story; Wilbon's Newspaper Delivery Boy Days

On Nov. 28, Vice President **Ben Bradlee** and Sports Columnist **Michael Wilbon** answered questions, shared anecdotes and offered advice to over 350 student journalists from 20 Washington area high schools during a program set up by The Post's Young Journalists Development Program.

YJDP Director **Athelia Knight** introduced Bradlee who first told biographical stories about attending a "segregated" private high school, rewriting a drab story 16 times during his first newspaper job and taking shrapnel on his "rear end" onboard a Navy destroyer off the island of Saipan during World War II.



PHOTO - KEVIN CLARK

*Vice President **Ben Bradlee**—a Post institution within an institution—surrounded by student journalists, as they listen to Columnist **Michael Wilbon**.*

As the students' comfort level rose, they peppered Bradlee with a few tough questions about whether he thought Watergate-era reporters were more "aggressive and critical" than present day reporters and disgraced

former Post reporter Janice Cooke. When asked if he feared reprisal for the Pentagon Papers, Bradlee answered, "We just got the facts. The facts killed Richard Nixon."

Wilbon followed and immediately pointed out, "You have just heard stories from the greatest editor in the history of American newspapers" and added that listening to Bradlee still "thrills" him. He talked about delivering news-

papers on the south side of Chicago, hoping that one day he could write for the same papers he threw from his bicycle: the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun Times.

Wilbon offered two pieces of advice: focus on what they need to accomplish today instead of focusing on the distant future and that if they work hard enough, no obstacle can get in their way.

Two copies of Bradlee's "A Good Life" and two of "I May Be Wrong, But I Doubt" (written by NBA great Charles Barkley and edited by Wilbon) were raffled and autographed. ■

Departures

After 25 years at The Post, College Park Pressroom Superintendent **Greg Estep** will be moving on. Before The Post, he played football at Bowie State College and had



PHOTO - PATTI ALUISE

*Publisher **Bo Jones** with College Park Pressroom Superintendent **Greg Estep**.*

a short stint as a physical fitness trainer. But in 1981 he saw a "tremendous opportunity" as a trainee press operator at the Northwest plant. He

vividly recalled being "intimidated and fascinated" when he set foot in the pressroom. He worked his way up the ranks until becoming assistant pressroom superintendent. The "most challenging and rewarding experience of [his] career" was being a part of the press startup at College Park. He was particularly impressed with the way "the people pulled together." At College Park, he was promoted to pressroom superintendent and has kept the position. Estep cites "the family culture" and "working for **Don Graham**—an owner who's really in touch with the people" as the biggest reasons for staying at The Post.

Estep holds a degree in

newspaper operations management from Rochester Institute of Technology and is currently pursuing an MBA from Johns Hopkins University. He will become the Richmond Times-Dispatch production manager.

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Pulitzer Prize-winning Columnist **Colby King** will be retiring from The Post on Dec. 31 as deputy editor of the editorial page. For 16 years, Colby's editorial column exemplified "hard-hitting, compassionate, groundbreaking writing," as written on the newsroom's intranet, The Source. Before The Post, King was a U.S. Army officer and then a State Department special officer. He held various



PHOTO - MARIE MARZIS

Colby King

other government positions, including an appointment as U.S. executive director to the World Bank by President Jimmy Carter and then deputy assistant secretary of the Treasury Department. In 1990, he joined The Post's editorial board and on Jan. 3, 2000 was promoted to deputy editor of the editorial page. In 2003, King won the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary for "against-the-grain columns that speak to people in power with ferocity and wisdom."

King earned his BA in government from Howard University in 1961. He will continue to write a weekly column for The Post. ■

ST: Can you talk about the move from E Street to L Street?

AM: When the day of the move came around, there were so many big functions and celebrations going on that even the top brass were not around. So, I stayed behind to ensure the last edition went out from the E Street location. It probably would have went out anyway, but I stayed behind to provide oversight. Of course, the

festivities continued the next day, so I also ensured the first paper from L Street also went out.

ST: What motivates you to still stay connected with *The Post*?

AM: It's the love and fascination I have for this great paper. See, people say that *The Post* became a great newspaper during Watergate, but we were a great newspaper way before that. Just look at our coverage of World War II. I remember we had writ-

ten a story that was not kind to Marines. A few days later we had some Marines at our front door, including their recruiting officer. They got a few of our employees to sign up as foreign correspondents for the Marine Corps (a unit that was called the Combat Correspondent Corps). My vice president, Stan Stavisky, wrote an incredible account of his time in the Pacific (the book is titled, "Marine Combat Correspondent: World War II in the Pacific" by Samuel E. Stavisky). ■

Editor's Note: *In 2007, ShopTalk will begin including E-Streeters stories written by E-Streeters.*

Helen Dewar's Memorial Service

In remembering and honoring *The Post*'s Senate reporter **Helen Dewar**, who succumbed to breast cancer on Nov. 4, the unifying theme among colleagues, senators and close personal friends was that Dewar loved politics, had an unwavering loyalty to her newspaper and her uncompromising standards and hunger for the truth made her not only rare, but an equally respected and feared journalist among the men and women of the senate floor.

After Executive Editor **Len**

Senator Kennedy expressed both his admiration and fear of Helen Dewar's conviction to reporting.



Columnist **Eric Pianin**, Executive Editor **Len Downie**, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), Managing Editor **Phil Bennett** and Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) listen intently as Helen Dewar's friend and former *Post* writer **Susanna McBee** pays a stirring tribute to her colleague.

Downie's opening words, a video tribute followed that included remarks from Chairman **Don Graham** and Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.), who admitted that Dewar was feared, but greatly respected.

Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy (D) talked about Dewar's tenacity and her famous "Dewar walk." When congress passed a rule to keep reporters from waiting on senators outside their chamber doors, Dewar thwarted the rule by moving

and hovering around so as to not be technically "waiting." But as soon targeted senators would step out, she was ready to drill them.

Susanna McBee, a long-time *Post* colleague, also discussed Dewar's

uncompromising values and dedication to her job, before informing everyone that Dewar subscribed to *The Post* until she died and concluded, "Helen was nothing if not loyal."

Post Columnist **Eric Pianin** talked about The *Post*'s Fairfax bureau staff taking turns visiting Dewar at the hospital and bringing her chocolate milkshakes. Pianin, who was with her the morning she passed, then

explained that the "cancer had done its work" as evident by the "stack of unread copies of *The Washington Post*." He recounted talking politics to her—at her request—until he thought she was asleep and then concluded: "I stood up from my chair, leaned over her bed and whispered, 'Goodbye.' Suddenly, she opened her eyes and said to me ever so faintly, 'Well, I hear Mark Warner dropped out of the race' and then drifted back to sleep."

Pat O'Shea, **Seth Hamblin** and **Maralee Schwartz** from News helped Pianin put the memorial service together. ■



Pianin, Downie and Senator Kennedy greet each other before the memorial service.

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 onom@washpost.com or shoptalk@washpost.com with any questions.

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.*

2006 Expense Deadlines from Accounting

Delinquent expense reports
- Friday, Dec. 15

Final current expense reports (dated after Dec. 1)
- Wednesday, Dec. 20

Accounts payable vouchers
- Wednesday, Dec. 20

Accrual worksheets -
Thursday, Jan. 4 (by noon)

Please submit expense reports immediately following travel. They're considered delinquent, if submitted beyond one week after the expenditure was incurred. Although considered delinquent, expenses incurred in September, October or November 2006 must be submitted by Dec. 15, 2006 in order to be reimbursed at all. If submitted after Dec. 15, they will be returned unpaid. All December 2006 expenses must be received by Jan. 10, 2007 in order to be reimbursed. If received after, they will be returned unpaid.

For December expenses to appear against 2006 budget, they must be received by Dec. 20, 2006. No December expense reports will be accrued. December expenses received between Dec. 20,

2006 and Jan. 11, 2007 will appear as expenses for 2007. Contact **Nadeem Awan**, Financial Accounting Supervisor at x4-7812 with any questions.



CPR Classes at Health Center

The Health Center (Northwest Building) will offer CPR classes on Wednesday, Dec. 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. Class lasts two to three hours and will take place in the fitness center's exercise room. Call x4-7192 to reserve a seat.

Marketplace

FREE: 7.5 ft. artificial Christmas tree in perfect condition. Will also give away lights and garlands to go on it. Just bring your truck into my driveway. Contact Margaret Glaser at x4-4053 or at home 301-622-2272.

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)

FOR SALE: Art deco cabinet with fine veneer and original bakelite handles. Measures 30 in.(w) x 17 in.(d) x 28 in.(h). \$200 (obo). Also giving away for FREE: Black, two-drawer filing cabinet measuring 30 in.(w) x 18 in.(d) x 28 in.(h). Contact Jessica at x4-5650 or at 301-270-4714 (evenings).

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.

ISO: Carpool from Leesburg, Va. to The Post (NW), Tuesday -Friday to accommodate a 10 a.m. starting time. Contact Jessica x4-5650 or at 301-270-4714 (evenings).

FOR HIRE: Experienced professional tutor. Covers subject matter from grades 2 - 12 and college classes up to the sophomore year. Only \$25 per hour. References can be provided. For more information or to make an appointment contact Barbara at 301-806-1440

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 or onom@washpost.com. Ads run for two issues unless otherwise requested. One ad per employee. ShopTalk reserves the right to publish and edit all ads.