

ShopTalk



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Editor, Mario I. Oña, x4-6803

Eugene Meyer Award Recipients: Class of 2006

Ellen Gerhard, Advertising, **Roddy MacPherson**, Production, along with Sports columnists **Tom Boswell**, **Tony Kornheiser** and **Michael Wilbon** are The Post's 2006 prestigious Eugene Meyer Award winners. It's the first time five outstanding Post employees have been honored in one year.

The awards started in 1983 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of **Eugene Meyer's** purchase of The Post. It recognizes Post employees who embody Meyer's vision of what makes a newspaper great: serving the public according to seven specific principles (see page 3).

TOM BOSWELL always loved sports, but was a "bad quarterback" and only a "decent first baseman." So when he joined The Post as a part-time copy aide in 1969, he said his



Tom Boswell

PHOTO - JULIA EWAN

attitude was: "What's the worst job you got?" He simply wanted in. Sometime after being "seduced" with an assignment covering high school football, he eventually became a full-time "copy boy." He began covering high school sports regularly and distinctly remembers the vacuum left when the Washington Senators disappeared. Tom started following Cuban sports, particularly Olympic boxing titan Teófilo Stevenson. After convincing his editors and the Cuban government to allow him full journalistic access into Cuba's

safely guarded sports world, he became one of the first American journalists to penetrate the island. He wrote a five-part series on Cuban sports that made it to The



Roddy MacPherson

PHOTO - JULIA EWAN

Post's A1 and eventually made him a columnist. When Sports Illustrated came calling several years later, Tom turned them down because as he explains it: "I was going to write 20 stories per year for Sports Illustrated, when I was writing over 200 stories at The Post. It would have felt like retirement." Though being challenged with tight deadlines helped sway his decision, he added, "More importantly, I always felt at home here and I felt that very early on. The question that came to mind was: 'Are you proud of being a part of this?' Are you kidding me?! I had my boyhood hero **Shirley Povich** (legendary Post sports columnist) only a few cubicles away." (Editor's Note: "Boz" shared so many great stories that

there was simply not enough space to include them here. Look for more excerpts from this colorful interview in a future ShopTalk).

ELLEN GERHARD is an outside sales representative in Advertising who started at The Post as a part-time Classifieds telephone sales representative in 1978. She distinctly remembers how The Post wrote and laid out classified ads before computers.

"Each ad would get typed up and then we'd put them on a conveyor belt where they would get sent to layout," she said. She left The Post to raise her kids. After overcoming the devastating death



Ellen Gerhard

PHOTO - JULIA EWAN

of her husband and moving to Lake Tahoe to "get away from it all," she returned to The Post and was rehired into Classifieds in 1992. She found

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Over the Break...

PHOTO - COURTESY OF NANCY TREJOS



Christmas in Iraq

Montgomery County Bureau's **Nancy Trejos** aboard an Army Blackhawk Helicopter in route to Mosul (sitting next to her is U.S. Army Specialist Ricci). Trejos is a general assignment reporter out of the Montgomery County bureau. She will spend a total of two months in Iraq. Coincidentally, **Ernesto Londoño**, also from the Montgomery bureau will also be heading to Iraq soon.

Distributor Annual Holiday Party

The 51st Distributor Annual Holiday Party took place on Dec. 13 at The Marriott North Bethesda Hotel and Conference Center. The annual event organized by Circulation recognizes and rewards

outstanding distributors who are fundamental in achieving The Post's annual Circulation goals. Publisher **Bo Jones**, President and General Manager **Steve Hills** and Vice President **David**

Dadisman, Circulation, all spoke and apart from recognizing the distributors' hard work, also laid out the Circulation goals for 2007. Seven regional distributors were awarded Distributor of the Year awards. John Walker, a distributor in Manassas, Va., walked away with the highest honor: Overall Distributor of the Year.

Though this is his first grand prize, he's been Distributor of the Year (Virginia South) in three consecutive decades.

Congratulations to the 2006 Distributors of the Year:

Adrian Miller – Metro Single Copy North

Steve Smallwood – Metro Single Copy South
Wayne Castle – Regional Sales
Philip Fisher – Maryland North
Donald Dinsmore – Maryland South/District of Columbia
Thomas Jordan – Virginia North
John Walker – Virginia South

Higher Learning

John White, Jr. is College Park Plant's chief building engineer and on his off time he's completing his course work at Prince George's County Community College. John is pursuing a degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology. White and his classmates recently won the Federal Reserve Challenge Community College Championship by beating out schools in New

lege also received \$1500.

The competition consisted of each team making a 20-minute recommendation to the Federal Reserve Board on what it should do with interest rates. After each presentation, the teams fielded questions from Reserve officials in New York, Boston and Baltimore.

"These courses were a true period of growth in understanding the economy for my team and I," explained White. "Now I find myself watching financial news and wanting to call my team mates to digest



College Park Plant's **John White, Jr.** (far right) with his Prince George's County Community College classmates after winning the 2006 College Fed Challenge.

PHOTO - COURTESY OF DIANA WILKES

Haven, Conn. and Bayside, N.Y. over closed circuit television. They received a trophy and \$3000 to divide among the team members. Their col-

the latest employment numbers or inflation estimates. What a fulfilling experience it was!" ■

PHOTO - RICHARD GREENHOUSE



(Left to right): Vice President **David Dadisman**, Circulation, with Metro single copy distributor **Bud Whitcomb**, **Sharon Fisher** and husband **Philip Fisher**, who is one of the 2006 Distributors of the Year, and **John Belk**, an Express distributor.

(Left to right): **James Dean, Jr.**, Circulation, with several Circulation retirees and their spouses: retiree **George Schmith** with his wife **Darnell Schmith** and **Estelle Randolph** with husband, retiree **Randy Randolph**.



PHOTO - TERRY LYNN JOHNSON



PHOTO - DAVID JONES

Christmas Carols at The Post

Students from Woodrow Wilson Senior High School lead by their school choir director, **Lori Williams**, stopped by The Post on Dec. 13 and went around the Northwest Building spreading boughs of Holiday cheer through song.

her niche in the travel category and has excelled there since 1995. Her ability to foster and maintain strong ties with small and mid-size advertisers has helped The Post prosper two-fold: generating revenue through ads and increased readership in Sunday Travel, Wednesday Escapes and Express. Ellen explained, "The people have always been the best part of working at The Post. There are different ethnicities, different age groups and just an overall great cross-section of good people." Finally, she explained that another "great thing" at The Post has been the flexibility of her supervisors. "I've been very lucky," she concluded.

RODDY MACPHERSON, assistant manager at the Springfield Plant, began as a junior press operator at the Northwest Plant in 1975 and quickly rose to crew chief. In 1980, he was promoted to pressroom foreman at Springfield. He moved up to dayshift lead foreman and then



PHOTO - JULIA EWAN

Tony Kornheiser

became Springfield's pressroom superintendent. As special projects manager, Roddy was instrumental in modernizing the plants by being a key figure in the purchase and installation of the Mitsubishi presses. He became College Park's assistant plant manager in 2000; but shortly after, he returned to Springfield to become its assistant plant manager in 2001. One of the most significant changes Roddy has witnessed was "switching from the 40-pound

lead plate to the 3.5-ounce aluminum plates used today." "Technology has changed radically during my time," explains Roddy, "But the one thing that's remained constant is that it's still a family despite being a big business. My Post mother is **Ann Griffin** and my father is **Al Kohan**." He then said, "One of the things that's kept me here is that there's never a dull moment, so you absolutely can't get complacent. You can never predict or forecast anything. Every day there's something new."

TONY KORNHEISER came to The Post from the New York Times in 1979 as a Sports and Style writer. For more than 20 years he wrote funny, perceptive topical columns and features for both sections. Though his broadcast career exploded and he eventually got to co-host the hit sports debate show, "Pardon the

Interruption" or "PTI" with Michael Wilbon, and in 2006 he became a Monday Night Football commentator on ESPN, his loyalty to The Post has remained solid. He continues to write sassy

and popular sports columns for The Post regularly. He also continues to host the Kornheiser and Wilbon Annual Celebrity Golf Classic to raise funds for D.C. College Access Program—a local charity that provides educational and financial opportunities to D.C. area students who might not otherwise have the resources or support to attend college. Always comical, Tony responded via email that the biggest change he's seen during his time at The Post

was the loss of his hair; the biggest constant: "Don still owns the paper." All joking aside, when pressed with what's kept him at The Post, he said, "I always felt the same thrill walking into the building. I was always proud to work for The Washington Post and continue to be."



PHOTO - JULIA EWAN

Michael Wilbon

MICHAEL WILBON, a native Chicagoan, hoped that one day he'd write for "the same newspaper I used to throw from my bike as a delivery boy"—the Chicago Tribune. But when the Tribune didn't call back for a summer internship in '79 and The Post did, he decided to take his chances. He returned for a two-year internship in 1980 and eventually became a full-time reporter. In 1990, he continued writing game stories, but added columns to his resume. Like Tony, Wilbon branched out into broadcast news and has become a staple sports commentator in D.C.

and nationally. He regularly appears with WRC TV 4 sports anchor George Michael on "Redskins Report" and "Full Court Press." In 2001, he was approached by ESPN to do PTI with Tony. Michael has also written introductions for both of NBA great Charles Barkley's

best-selling books, "I May Be Wrong But I Doubt It" and "Who's Afraid of a Large Black Man?" Despite his very busy schedule, Michael remains faithful to The Post and recently told student journalists: "One of the great thrills of my life has been working at this newspaper." He then laid it out for the students: "Many of you know what I do on TV, but there's a big difference between what I do and what I am. I am a sports writer." ■

Editor's Note: *Summary and photos of the Eugene Meyer Awards event will be in next week's issue.*

During a speech on March 5, 1935, Eugene Meyer outlined his vision for what makes a great newspaper. He published these bullets, which are now considered the Principles of The Washington Post:

- The first mission of a newspaper is to tell the truth as nearly as the truth can be ascertained.
- The newspaper shall tell ALL the truth so far as it can learn it, concerning the important affairs of America and the world.
- As a disseminator of news, the paper shall observe the decencies that are obligatory upon a private gentleman.
- What it prints shall be fit reading for the young as well as the old.
- The newspaper's duty is to its readers and to the public at large, and not to the private interests of its owners.
- In the pursuit of truth, the newspaper shall be prepared to make sacrifices of its material fortunes, if such a course be necessary for the public good.
- The newspaper shall not be the ally of any special interest, but shall be fair and free and wholesome in its outlook on public affairs and public men.



Mega Fun

To rally the “troops” of the Jobs Advertising Unit during their labor intensive week leading up to The Post’s biannual Mega Jobs section, they all donned their snazzy getups for the “Flashback”-themed kickoff

Donations for Children’s Hospital Campaign Deadline: Jan. 19

The Post’s annual Children’s Hospital campaign dates back to the 1940s. It was started by **Bill Gold**, who wrote a daily column in the paper called “The District Line.” When Gold retired, his successor, **Bob Levey**, took over the column and the campaign. **John Kelly** then took over when Levey retired three years ago with his column, “John Kelly’s Washington,” which runs Sunday through Thursday in Metro. Kelly hopes to reach \$500,000 by Jan. 19 and stresses that “every donation helps,” particularly since The Post matches each donation dollar for dollar. The money helps pay hospital bills for poor children.

To donate: make check or money order payable to “Children’s Hospital” and send it via interoffice mail to John Kelly, Newsroom (fifth floor). You can also donate online using a credit card at www.washingtonpost.com/childrenshospital.



Northwest Health Center Hours of Operation Change

As of Jan. 1, 2007, the Northwest Health Center’s hours of operation will be Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nurses will no longer be on staff during weekends. The reduction in hours stems from a steady decline in health center usage since production operations seized at the Northwest Plant. Security staff can respond to medical emergencies when nurses are not available. Security supervisors are trained in CPR and security personnel can arrange for emergency transportation, when needed (contact x4-7777, anytime).

Contact **Phyllis** with any additional questions: x4-4924.

ShopTalk Suggestion Boxes Available Now!

Suggestion boxes are located in the Northwest Building (right outside Health Center) 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. Submissions are starting to trickle in and every effort will be made to address most questions or concerns. Contact x4-6803 or onam@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.

Marketplace

FOR SALE: Sleek, vintage, retro couch in very good condition. A great bargain. Was originally selling for \$750 a few days ago, but since I’m moving and can’t bring it with me, knocking it down to \$450!!! Contact Eric at 410-626-2802.

FOR SALE: White Kenmore refrigerator, never used, 29.5 cu. ft. \$399. White freestanding Kenmore gas range, never used, 30 in., \$250. White Whirlpool dishwasher, never used, 24 in., \$199. Located in Adams Mogan. These came with the new house, but we are upgrading all appliances. The more items you buy, the better the price. Prices are negotiable. Contact Norman at x4-6597

FOR SALE: BMW Car Cover that fits 2001-2006 3 series coupe. Originally \$190. Selling for \$125. Hardly used and in great condition! Contact Angela X4-9297 or 240-882-1377.

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 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.