

ShopTalk



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Editor, Mario I. Oña, x4-6803

Art Buchwald 1925-2007 A Conversation with Ben Bradlee

Pulitzer Prize-winning, syndicated columnist and political satirist **Art Buchwald**, 81, died of kidney failure on Jan. 17—a

strap on a saddle and ride it until the very end. His popularity as a columnist resurged and he became crucially relevant with his poignant, yet comical approach to his own farewell.

became friends and I quickly moved to Newsweek and then we had offices in the same building. We just became really fast friends.



Vice President-at-Large **Ben Bradlee** greets his friend of nearly 50 years, **Art Buchwald**, during a fundraiser in November 2006, while Buchwald's nurse assistant, Jackie Lindsey, looks on.

Buchwald's long-time friend, Vice President-at-Large **Ben Bradlee**, took time to talk about his late friend:

SHOPTALK (ST): Please discuss your friendship with Mr. Buchwald and how you met.

BEN BRADLEE (BB): Well, I met him 47

years ago in Paris when he ran a sort of nightclub column for the Herald Tribune in Paris. I had gone over there—first as the press attaché in the embassy. We

little less than a year after he expected to die. In February 2006, he refused dialysis knowing death would follow shortly after. Miraculously, his kidneys started to cooperate and he started writing columns again. This time he shifted his focus from politics to his impending demise. As if confronting death wasn't enough, Buchwald seemed to

ST: How long were you in Paris together?

BB: About seven years. I left to come back and work for Newsweek here. Then Buchwald came back in '62. I'd see him whenever I'd go over to Europe and we stayed friends.

ST: It's safe to say that good friends are hard to come by.



Syndicated columnist Art Buchwald "cavorts" in Paris sometime before moving to Washington in 1962.

(Left to right): Ben Bradlee and pals, trial lawyer Edward Bennett Williams and Art Buchwald, made up the "lunch club," which Bradlee comically admitted that it existed solely to "keep other people out."



What was your commonality? I mean you both survived Washington.

BB: I don't know. We were definitely different. I'm a Boston WASP. He's a Jew from the streets of Brooklyn, I

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Promotions



PHOTO - COURTESY OF PATTI ALUISE

Jermaine Collins

JERMAINE COLLINS, Production, recently became the assistant team leader at the College Park pressroom. He started at The Post in 1996 at the Northwest plant. After working as a paper handler and a mailroom helper, he became a pressroom team assistant. In 2004, he became a fully experienced press operator after becoming part of The Post's Press Operator Training Program. Jermaine is pursuing a degree in Business Management at Prince George's Community College. In his spare time, he coaches track and field at Fairmont Heights High School.

JIM CONLEY, Production, was recently promoted to night production manager at

the College Park plant. He started at The Post in 1990 and previously held the position of technical leader in the College

Park pressroom. He's finishing up his production management degree through Rochester Institute of Tech-

nology. Jim is an outdoorsman through and through. He fishes, hunts and enjoys camping with his son Brad, 16.

RICKY DIONISIO, Production, was promoted to assistant team leader at the Springfield Plant recently. He's been at The Post over three years and before his promotion he was a press operator. He earned his degree in mechanical engineering from

Far Eastern University in Manila. He's worked at gas turbine and combined cycle power plants in the Philippines as commissioning engineer. Ricky also worked with John Brown Engineering as a shift charge engineer in Saudi Arabia. He moved to the U.S. in 1999 and after working with United Airlines, he landed a job at The Post in 2003.

JAMES PERRY, Production, is the new College Park pressroom superintendent. He started at The Post as a press operator trainee in 1989. In 1991, he became the assistant crew chief. Two years later, he was promoted again to team leader. In 1997, James worked diligently to help bring the first Mitsubishi press online at Springfield. Following the success at Springfield, he helped bring

each of the four presses at College Park online. Before becoming superintendent, he was a technical leader. Before The Post, James served in the U.S. Army from 1979 to 1989, where he was a staff sergeant and a training non-commissioned officer for a combat

engineering company. James lives with his wife Emile and five children—Shannon, Iesha, Porsche, Jarrod and Jalen—in Springdale, Md. He was very

involved in coaching boys' club football and looks forward to getting back into it. He also enjoys working in his yard and gardens.

RICHARD SHOVER, Production, was recently promoted to assistant team leader at the Springfield plant. He moved from Cleveland to D.C. in

1982. He started his career at The Post moonlighting as a hand inserter at the Northwest plant, while during the day he helped build George Mason University's Patriot Center and remodeled Union

Station while working as a layout engineer for Kora & Williams Construction Company. After being promoted to mailroom



PHOTO - COURTESY OF SUSAN CANADA

Ricky Dionisio

helper, he got his license and drove a truck delivering the national weekly edition to the airport. He eventually moved to the pressroom. Richard is married to a "wonderful wife" named Sharon and they have two "beautiful" teenage daughters named Christina and Stephanie. Being from Ohio, he's a diehard Browns, Indians and Buckeyes fan.



De'Lano Yelder

DE'LANO YELDER, Advertising Operations, is a new senior staff associate. He previously worked at Annapolis Lighting as the receiving coordinator. He was also a Post utility mailer. He attended Howard University

and has a technical certificate from the Maryland Drafting Institute. In his spare time, he coaches a youth flag football team and enjoys spending time with his children. ■

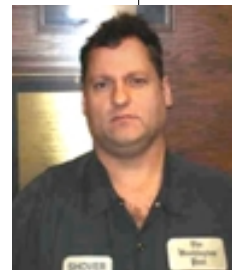


PHOTO - COURTESY OF SUSAN CANADA

Richard Shover



PHOTO - COURTESY OF PATTI ALUISE

Jim Conley

James Perry



PHOTO - COURTESY OF PATTI ALUISE

guess, or California or wherever the hell he's from. Anyway, we were just natural friends. We made each other laugh. We had a lot of the same friends in Paris.

ST: Could you share something about Art that most people might not know?

BB: I don't know. It's hard. I've been talking about Art for five or six days. I had 12 interviews yesterday—it's just amazing. I don't know anything—I can tell you he doesn't speak French very well (chuckling).

ST: How was his tennis?

BB: His tennis was terrible.

ST: So he lied throughout his last farewell column? (Buchwald wrote a column intended to be published posthumously several months ago, when

death seemed imminent. His last column, "Goodbye, My Friends," was finally published in *The Post* on Jan. 19—two days after his passing. In the column, he jokingly talks about "all the great tennis games I played" and his "famous 'lob.'").

BB: (Rephrasing the same question asked) So did Buchwald lie in his column about what a good tennis player he was? He certainly did! He wasn't a good tennis player at all. He had this incredible lob and you ended up playing what we used to call "paddy ball."

ST: On a more serious note—With his passing and the way he approached his last year of life: Has it made you reflect about when the inevitable day comes for you? Was there a lesson learned?

BB: Well, there are definitely lessons out there. I just don't

know if I've learned them yet. But he certainly... He was given a death notice in October of last year—well, before that—maybe April of last year. And he certainly turned his last eight to ten months into a very positive statement about himself and his beliefs. He had a great year. I mean he was in no pain. He gave a lot of inspiration to his friends, to people, to other patients. And he died—I hope I can die that well—very gracefully; he finally just slipped into a coma and that was it.

ST: Doing what he loved. He had a column out...

BB: Yeah... Well, I know. He had that column out. He wrote that column some time ago. But yeah... who the hell is writing with a fatal illness knowing that he's going to die in x number of months. Must be hard to do and who could see the value in it.

ST: It seems very courageous.

BB: Yeah. ■

Editor's Note: Please go to [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com) (keyword: Buchwald) for transcripts from an online chat with Bradlee the day after Buchwald passed away. Also read **Patricia Sullivan's** captivating A1 obituary; Buchwald's last column, "Goodbye, My Friends" and **David Von Drehle's** beautifully written feature, "Art Buchwald's Moveable Feast: From Paris to D.C., He Lived by His Wit," where Von Drehle observes: "For most people dying is a milestone. For Buchwald, it was fresh material."

First Eastern 500 Club Workshop of the Year



Eastern High School 500 Club members participating in the first workshop of the year; In addition to maintaining a high GPA, students must attend all 500 Club workshops.

The first Eastern 500 Club workshop of the year took place on Jan. 12 at Eastern High School in northeastern D.C. **Peter Joseph**, Training, facilitated the event and walked the students through a career building exercise. The group was divided into four teams and each team had to sell itself by applying the collective attributes of each member. **David Jones**, 500 Club program manager, then lead a presentation on the day's topic: "Careers at The Washington Post and Goal Setting." Jones said, "The topic was requested

by our protégés and their level of participation in the workshop reflected their interest. Joseph, Jones and ShopTalk editor **Mario Oña** each discussed how they started at *The Post* and offered suggestions and advice on how to set and achieve realistic goals.

Anyone interested in mentoring and/or participating in a future workshop designed to guide goal-oriented students to make a seamless transition into college, contact David Jones at x4-4917.

Important Changes to the 401(k) Plan

The Washington Post Company will be adding some exciting new features to the 401k Savings Plan. The new options will make it simpler for employees to invest and encourage more employees to participate.

Highlights of changes (effective Feb. 1, 2007, unless otherwise noted):

- Full-time or part-time employees can contribute to the plan immediately upon hire, rather than after completing a year of eligibility service (1,000 hours in 12-month consecutive period). The company matching contribution does not change, and becomes effective after one year of eligibility service.
- Vanguard Target Retirement Funds will be added to the investment lineup. These funds make investing simpler for participants by gradually and automatically adjusting their investment mix as they approach retirement.
- Effective late Spring 2007, an online, confidential investment advice service, called Personal Online Advisor from Financial Engines, will be available to participants at no cost.

For more information on the Target Retirement Funds or Financial Engines, contact Vanguard at 800-523-1188. For more details on the changes to the 401(k) plan, visit www.wponet.com (Employee Center/Retirement Benefits link)

Love Notes

Question: What says "I love you" more originally and lasts longer than perishable flowers and New Year's resolution-killing, guilt-riddled chocolates? Answer: A Love Note in The Post's Valentine's Day addition. The Consumer



Advertising Department will publish its popular annual Love Notes on Feb. 14. Post employees can display their love toward family, friends, co-workers and sig-o's (significant others) and begin placing ads on Jan. 23 at a 25 percent discount. Prices will vary, but most ads will be under \$30. To place an ad, contact the Consumer to Consumer Department after Jan. 23 at x4-6200.

Northwest Health Center Hours of Operation Change

The Northwest Health Center's hours of operation are now 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 cen-



ter usage since production operations ceased 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 Waslo** 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 onom@washpost.com or shoptalk@washpost.com with any questions.



Marketplace

FOR RENT: Vacation week in Villas at The Boardwalk. This is a beautiful ocean-front resort in Virginia Beach. Check in Sept. 8, 2007 and check out Sept. 15, 2007. One bedroom, 2 sofas, kitchen. Sleeps up to 6 people. Accommodations: indoor pool, Jacuzzi, gym and restaurant. Asking \$700. Contact Trinh at x4-4021 (between 7-11 p.m.)

FOR SALE: 2003 Subaru Baja loaded—premium sound system, 6-CD changer, leather interior, sunroof, sports lights. Burgundy/silver. All-wheel drive: great in rain and snow. Only 48K miles. View it online at cars.com. Recently detailed. \$13,500 or best offer. Contact Mario at x4-6803 or 240-515-1732

FOR SALE: Games for XBOX 360. Both games are brand new—just won in a raffle! FIFA 07 Soccer for \$35 and NBA 07 Live also \$35. Best deal: take both games for \$60. Contact Linda at x4-5257.

FOR SALE: Two 2006 E350 15-passenger vans \$14,000 each. Or resume monthly payments of \$550 each. Contact Yvette at 301-630-7669.

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.

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.