

# ShopTalk



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Editor, Mario I. Oña, x4-6803

## 'Being a Black Man' Series Book Launch

**D**ana Priest and Anne Hull understood they had a compelling story when they reported on the substandard outpatient care at Walter Reed, but they never imagined the type of response it would elicit. Similarly, when Robert Pierre and Darryl Fears thought of reporting on the type of stories that show "black men in a fresh way, to hear their voices, to be shown their complexities and challenges, to be taken deep inside their lives," as Kevin Merida,

associate editor and series editor, said, nobody could have anticipated the amount of public interest it garnered in the year (and counting) that followed the publication.

"The response to the series has been overwhelming and continues: thousands and thousands of e-mails, and millions of page views of the content on our



PHOTO - RUBEN RODRIGUEZ

(Left to right): David DeJesus, Advertising; Darryl Fears, News (National) and Herbert Lowe, director of communications for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, mingle during the book launch.

National Association of Black Journalists annual conference in Las Vegas on Aug. 11 and locally at the Northwest Building on Sept. 10.

Originally, there was no plan to publish a book, but the decision came as a reaction to the response from readers and

Web site," said Merida. "Many people responded personally and viscerally wanting to relate their own experiences. Others urged us to tackle subjects we had not addressed in the series or offered individual black men they felt were worthy of profiling."

Apart from being lauded with multiple awards from varying organizations, the series culminated by being bound into a book, which was launched nationally at the



PHOTO - RUBEN RODRIGUEZ

(Left to right): Associate Editor Kevin Merida, who oversaw the well-received series and compilation of the articles into a book, talks to the book's publishers Peter Osnos, PublicAffairs Books founder and editor-at-large, and Susan Weinberg, publisher.

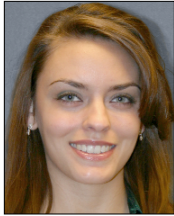


PHOTO - RUBEN RODRIGUEZ

Chairman Don Graham welcomes everyone to the "Being a Black Man" series book launch.

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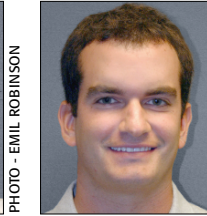
# New Faces



**Heather Adams**



**Yolanda  
"Dant'e" Byrd**



**Matthew Eonta**



**Christopher  
Hyde**



**Anita Kumar**



**Candace  
Owens**

PHOTO - EMIL ROBINSON

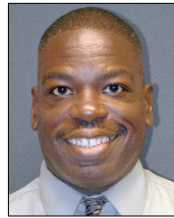
PHOTO - EMIL ROBINSON

**HEATHER ADAMS**, Marketing, is a media planner joining The Post from Doner Advertising in Michigan. She earned her BA in communications from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She double-minored in the history of art and ethnological anthropology. Heather likes to play tennis and was the captain of her varsity team in high school. Besides bowling and reading, she dedicates part of her time to running her "mini farm" at home, where she has two bunnies and a cat, that "play nice."

**YOLANDA "DANT'E" BYRD**, Advertising, came over from the Washington Examiner where she was an advertising coordinator. She holds the same job at The Post. Before that, she worked promotions at 94.7 FM, now The Globe radio station. She's currently working on her degree in visual communications from Bowie State University (Md.). She loves to read and shop. While at 94.7, she worked with the radio personality Weasel, who—contrary to his on-air schtick is actually "very quiet." As a perk, Dant'e got to watch the Rolling Stones.



**Jason Reid**



**James  
Robinson**



**Bethany  
Weinstein**

PHOTO - JULIA EWAN

**MATTHEW EONTA**, Advertising, recently joined The Post as an advertising coordinator. Prior to The Post, he interned in various fields including minor league baseball, computer marketing and the scrap metal industry. He earned his BA from Dickinson College (Pa.). Apart from playing baseball, grilling and listening to music, Matt had a "formidable track record in the Pittsburgh area karaoke circuit." At 19, he and his buddies sang "[removed song title to protect the innocent]" and made their way to the finals, but were denied entry because they were not over 21.

**CHRISTOPHER HYDE**, Circulation, is the new manager of analysis and reporting coming to The Post from the Audit Bureau of Circulations, where he was a senior auditor. At one point he audited The Post, and now he's working for The Post. He considers himself a "Pittsburgher" though he spent some time in Connecti-

cut. He earned his BA in history from Duquesne University (Pa.). Christopher likes music and at the risk of alienating some, but probably aligning with most, says that his music taste is "stuck in the '80s." His poison: Britpop.

**ANITA KUMAR**, News, came to The Post from the St. Petersburg Times, where she was a Washington correspondent. She will soon be moving to the Richmond bureau, where she will be a staff writer. She's also worked at the News and Advance in Lynchburg, Va. and the News and Record in Greensboro, N.C. Anita grew up in Charlottesville and attended the University of Virginia, where she earned her BA in government and foreign affairs, and spent "too much time" at the Cavalier Daily—the student newspaper. She understands Hindi and is learning to speak it. Her interest in travel has taken her to Thailand and Cambodia. She planned to visit China this

year, but is putting it off until she's settled into her new digs. Anita's also been to Hawaii and New Mexico.

**CANDACE OWENS**, Advertising, also joined The Post recently as an advertising coordinator. She was previously an administrative sales support employee at Robert Half Creative Group and she also worked at Enterprise Rent-a-Car. Her BA in communications with an emphasis on public relations and minor in advertising is from California State University Dominguez Hills. She is currently finishing her MA in public administration. Besides writing and painting, she's an avid, but "not very good" bowler. Candace is addicted to Potbelly shakes and says that if the lead character in the movie, "The Wood" (set in Inglewood, Calif.), was a female, it would be the story of her life.

**JASON REID**, News, is now covering Washington Redskins football for The Post. He previously covered the Dodgers for the Los Angeles Times for eight years, as well as national college basketball and the NBA. He earned his BA from the University of Southern California in 1993. Apart from playing softball

and basketball, Jason says he enjoys “watching my baby boy do anything.”

**JAMES ROBINSON**, Advertising, joined The Post as a business analyst after working as a sales analyst for Giant Food for many years. He graduated from Duke University (N.C.) with a BS in computer science and psychology. Apart from sports and taking “power walks,” James reads about history and has a particular interest in vintage cartoons from the 1930s. He collects animation stills from that era and has read vastly on the subject. He wouldn’t mind giving animation a shot, since he was “pretty good and doing these little flip books as a kid.”

**BETHANY WEINSTEIN**, Marketing, is a new manager of media research and planning. She was previously a media buyer at Mundy Katowitz Media. Previous to that, she worked at an advertising agency and did the “obligatory post-college stint on Capitol Hill.” She earned her BA and MA in Russian from Emory University (Ga.) and American University (D.C.), respectively. Bethany is trying to learn how to sail and hopes it will become a hobby. She’s also pursuing a “crazy dream of developing a television series.” Even though she understands that it’s difficult to “break into the industry,” she’s taken a TV-writing class, has written two scripts and is currently trying to pitch them in her spare time. ■

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Web viewers grew. Additionally, Merida said that during multiple town hall meetings, where the community had a chance to discuss the series, the question of a book kept coming up. “I also heard directly from ministers who ran youth programs, community leaders who ran after-school programs, teachers and others,” said Merida. “Can we get a reprint of the series? Are you all planning to compile this work in a book?” they asked. We thought it would be a public service. We hope to make the book as accessible as possible, especially to those who want to use it as an educational tool.”

“In 2000, Robert [Pierre] made the original suggestion for the series,” said Fears. “But then 9/11 happened. In 2005, I wanted to do something for the 10th anniversary of the Million Man March and Kevin [Merida] suggested res-

urrecting Robert’s idea. In late 2005, Kevin and Gene

**[Robinson]** brought it to **Phil Bennett** [managing editor], who was very interested and the first

article was then published in June 2006 [“At the Corner of Progress and Peril” by **Michael Fletcher** on June 2].”

In addition to all 15 series articles and an edited transcript of an online video on black men and prison, new material in the book includes an introduction by acclaimed novelist Edward P. Jones, an essay by Robinson on black male identity and an interview with BET founder Bob Johnson by **Joe Davidson**, assistant city editor. Additionally, reporters and series contribu-



PHOTO - RUBEN RODRIGUEZ

Publisher **Bo Jones** and Vice President-At-Large **Ben Bradlee** welcome Peter Osnos, whose Public Affairs Books published the book.

tors **Hamil Harris** and **Lonnae O’Neal Parker** hosted a roundtable discussion with black clergy to discuss black men and spirituality; the transcript is included in the book.

Merida concluded, “The multimedia dimension of the series was central to its success. The close collaboration with our partners at WPNI expanded the reach of the project and deepened the portrayal of black men.” ■

EDITOR’S NOTE: *The books can be purchased at amazon.com or Borders.*

## Black Family Reunion Celebration

**O**n Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 8 and 9, the 22nd 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, who donated their time to meet and greet attendees. With the popularity of the “Being a Black Man,” reporter **Robert Pierre**, who



PHOTO - DIMETRUS SIMON

**Robert Pierre**, *News (Metro)*, takes questions from passersby during the annual Black Family Reunion.

first pitched the idea for the series back in 2000, spent part of the day answering questions and talking to the community.

The event was started by

Dr. Dorothy Height of NCNW in 1986, as a means to counter negative publicity regarding African American families. The event attempts to raise awareness about education, economic development, health and employment. Over the years, the celebration has con-

tinued to grow and diversify—uniting families, beyond African American ones. ■

## Mailers Post Softball Tourney Champs Again



The Mailers defeated the Pressroom in the final 20-14 to become the 2007 Post Softball Champion for the second consecutive year. Back row (left to right): Mike Sheffer, Tim Lett, Jan Pastor, Dave Vassel, Kenny Brown, Billy Grossman (son of employees), Tom Foley, Steve Dixon. Front row (left to right): Max Pastor (son of Jan), Bill Brown, Reggie Taylor (manager, retired), Harold Perez and Joe Fiedler. Not pictured: Paul Wolff, Rick Costantino, James Coleman, Loretta Foley (wife of Tom and long-time scorekeeper), Conrad Rehill and Mike Ward. Congratulations!

### Your Health

#### Free Flu Shots

The Health Centers will offer free flu shots to Post employees on the dates below. You must call and make an appointment. Walk-ins will not be accepted until after the scheduled employees have finished and only if time permits. Spouses and contractors can receive the flu shots by appointment only for \$25.

#### College Park (x6-1181)

Oct. 10: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Oct. 11: 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

#### Northwest (x4-7192)

Sept. 25: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Oct. 25: 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

#### Springfield (x6-2240)

Oct. 2: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Oct 4: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.,  
9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

### Health Screening At Upcoming Health, Safety And Fitness Fair

Save the date: The Post Health, Safety and Fitness Fair will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 10 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Northwest Building Multipurpose Room. Over 60 exhibitors will provide free information on their services, as well as offer screenings and demonstrations.

This year the lab will charge a minimum fee for the following tests:

- Complete Blood Count (CBC) - \$5.00
- Cholesterol \* - \$9.00
- Thyroid Test - \$8.00
- Metabolic Profile (blood sugar/electrolyte) \* - \$8.00
- Prostate (PSA) - \$8.00

\*Require period of fasting.

Please contact the Health Center at x4-7192 to make appointments for the above tests. More details about the fair in an upcoming ShopTalk!

## Events Calendar

**October 10:** Health, Safety and Fitness Fair at Northwest Building

**October 27:** Marine Corps Marathon  
Healthy Kids Fun Run\*

**October 28:** Marine Corps Marathon:  
The People's Marathon\*



\*PostPoints - earning event (usually 25 points for participation)

If you wish to include any events open to all Post employees, send an email to [shoptalk@washpost.com](mailto:shoptalk@washpost.com).

### Debit Cards at Northwest Cafeteria

Now you can use your debit cards at the Northwest cafeteria for purchases over \$3.50. NOTE: Northwest coffee cart and cafeterias at the plants are still cash only.

### New EAP Tip

An estimated 66 percent of U.S. adults are either overweight or obese, and an estimated 17 percent of children and adolescents ages 2-19 years are overweight, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Most

people know that exercise is an important component of a healthy lifestyle, but may not be familiar with some of the specific health benefits. As part of APS Healthcare's continuing effort to promote the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), a promotional tip sheet titled "Benefits of Exercise" is now available on Intranet. Remember: Your EAP is committed to being "Healthy Together" and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-800-765-0770 or online at [www.apsheplink.com](http://www.apsheplink.com) (company code: Post).

## Marketplace

**FOR SALE:** 17-ft. canoe with Kevlar hull, cane seats. It's slightly off white and easily carries three adventurers or two with a lot of camping gear. Perfect for your summer cottage by the lake. Good river runner. Includes personal floating devices, paddles and an anchor. Asking \$400. Contact Michael x4-6322 or at 703-481-3159.

**FOR SALE:** Brand new professional portable massage table. Holds up to 450 lbs. and makes a great guest single bed for guests. Fold it up and stow it away, when not in use. Regular price \$350, but selling for \$175. Contact Jermaine at 240-752-3744.

**FOR SALE:** Garage kept, freshly painted 1986 Hunter Green Corvette with spoiler and charcoal grey interior. Needs some work, but runs great. Asking \$6,000 OBO. Contact Jermaine at 240-752-3744.

**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.