

ShopTalk

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Editor, Mario Iván Oña, x4-6803

Meet Our New Publisher

Newly minted Publisher and Washington Post Media CEO **Katharine Weymouth** looks remarkably cool on her third day on the job. She is surrounded by aromatic and colorful, fresh flowers that starkly contrast the panoramic view outside her old office—a frigid February sleet coming down from a charcoal sky. Also contrasting the

“bring-your-dog-to-work” day. How’s that working out for you?

KATHARINE WEYMOUTH (KW): (Laughing) Good question. I’ve been asked about bring-your-cat-to-work day too. I’ll have to pick my battles, but we’ll see.

ST: How have the first two days on the job been?

KW: Kind of a whirlwind, but fun and exciting. So far, so good.

ST: What is your vision for the newspaper?

KW: That we continue to put out the best newspaper covering local and national news, while being supported by a profitable business enterprise.

ST: What about for Washington Post Media and any changes in the relationship between the two?

KW: Washington Post Media, in my mind, gives a name to what has already happened. We needed a name to indicate to the world that we are not just a print newspaper anymore. We create content and distribute it through a variety of media.

ST: What do you hope to accomplish in your tenure?



(Left to right) New Post Co. Vice Chairman and Post Chairman **Bo Jones** and WPNI Publisher and CEO **Caroline Little** congratulate Publisher Katharine Weymouth and have a quick meeting of the minds.

KW: My goal is to continue the legacy that Bo, Don and my family created. Nothing is broken, so I just need to continue putting out a great newspaper—always striving to make it better. I’m going to spend the next six months or so getting to know folks.

ST: So do you have Don’s remarkable memory? (By many accounts, it’s not uncommon for Graham to meet employees and several years later remember everything from their names to details the employees might have shared with him about their families.)



After being named publisher of *The Post* and CEO of Washington Post Media, **Katharine Weymouth** is greeted with applause and cheers.

weather is Weymouth’s contagious optimism and enthusiasm.

SHOPTALK (ST): The most important question first. During your remarks last week following the State of The Post address you joked that you might implement a

Fourth-Quarter Advertising Award Recipients

Sales Achievement

Phil Bradley
Tanya Blosser
Ann Tran
Traci Ball
Sheila Daw
Kim Faulkner
Kim Houghton

Sales Excellence

Nick Bernardo
Mark Gross
Bob Vitriol
Sean Scullion
Traci Ball
Sheila Daw
Kim Faulkner
Sean Sullivan
Diane DuBois



PHOTO – JANE DAVIES

*Publisher's Award for Sales recipient **Anne Tackabery** (left) receives the distinction from **Wendy Evans**, director of Advertising Jobs.*

Service Excellence

Aaron Pinchback
Ann Simpkins
Donald Despertt
Tracy Creal

Eagle Awards

Cameron Jones
John Crispeno
Diane Hickman

Publisher's Award

Anne Tackabery – Sales
Garvin Brooms – Service



PHOTO – JANE DAVIES

*Laverne Laws (left), director of Advertising Services, recognizes **Garvin Brooms** with the Publisher's Award for Service.*

BookClub Brings Out The War Experts



PHOTO – NICOLE MARSHALL

*(Left to right) Post journalists and book authors **Steve Coll**, **George Pack**, **Tom Ricks** and **Rajiv Chandrasekaran** discussed their books "Ghost Wars," "The Assassins' Gate," "Fiasco" and "Imperial Life in the Emerald City," respectively, during The Post BookClub event "The Experts Speak Out On The War On Terror." After the discussion and answering questions, the authors signed copies of their books. Of note, Chandrasekaran's book is being adapted into a movie tentatively titled, "Green Zone," and due to release in 2009. It will once again pair up director Paul Greengrass with actor Matt Damon, both from "The Bourne Ultimatum."*

KW: No. No. Sadly, I do not. But I want to get to know the folks in the newsroom better, because I've never really worked directly with them. I want to get to know the newsroom and WPNI folks better.

ST: Perhaps the only order of business I can ask this early on... Is there any more information on the Voluntary Incentive Program that was announced last week?

KW: No. We don't have a specific date because we're still working through the details. To the best of my knowledge, it will still be in March. The details will be forthcoming. We're still working it out.

ST: How would you describe your leadership style?

KW: You might be better served asking the poor people who worked for me. I think I'm very open. I'm very direct. I like to hear new ideas and constructive criticism. I try not to be intimidating or dictatorial.

ST: Did you always know you would end up at The Post some day?

KW: Not at all. I grew up in New York. I always thought I'd be a lawyer, which I became. I thought I'd be a prosecutor. At Williams and Connolly, I did litigation. Had I stayed a lawyer, I would have left Williams and Connolly and gone to the U.S. Attorney's office. I never really thought about it and then at some point, Don started talking to me about coming to The Post. But the way it actually came about was while I was working at Williams and Connolly as an



Vice President at Large **Ben Bradlee** congratulates Publisher **Katharine Weymouth**.

associate. I had just finished a trial with a partner. One of the partners sent out an e-mail that The Post was short-staffed by one attorney. He said, "We've agreed to lend them an attorney for three months. Is there anybody interested? It won't be held against you. At the end of three months you can come back and it will count towards your tenure here." It was good timing for me and I was kind of tired after the trial, so I thought, "What a perfect way for me to dip my toe in and see what it's like to work at The Post."

ST: What brought you to D.C.?

KW: Williams and Connolly. I interned there for the summer and then they offered me a full-time position. I graduated from Stanford and then I clerked there for a year, before taking the internship.

ST: What should Post employees know about the new boss?

KW: I hope they come to find out that I'm open and direct.

ST: How have you balanced being a single mom of three young children and holding an executive position? Will your new job change anything?

KW: I don't think it will change anything. I think you do it the way any other moms out there do it. You juggle a lot of balls and hope you don't drop too many. You don't get a lot of sleep and you try to make as many school plays as you can. You make cupcakes at midnight for their birthday. You just juggle as best as you can and pray that your children will forgive you. And that you do a good job at work.

ST: On page 554 of your grandmother's (Katharine Graham) autobiography, "Personal History," it reads—referring to the strike: "Lally [Weymouth, Mrs. Graham's daughter and Katharine Weymouth's mother] came down from New York with my granddaughter Katharine, then nine years old, who stood on a box on a Saturday night in the mailroom helping to wrap papers." Do you remember that and if not, what was your first memory of The Post?

KW: I do. I do remember that. I think that was my first memory. I probably had been to The Post before, but wrapping up newspapers is the memory that stands out.

ST: I hope you were paid well.

KW: (Laughing) Well, I don't think I got paid anything. We got a newspaper and some kind of letter.

ST: What is your fondest memory of your grandmother?

KW: Honestly, we would have regular Friday night dinners in front of the TV. I would tell her stories about my week. She would share her week. And we would just giggle and watch Jim Lehrer.

ST: After the State of The Post and after being named publisher you said that you learned from Don that you don't necessarily need to be the smartest person in the room, you just need to surround yourself with the smartest people. What sort of life lessons or values that you learned from your grandmother, might you use in your new position?

KW: I think there are many lessons one can take from her. I didn't really know her in a working capacity, but what I admired about her was her strength. And although lots of people looked up to her, I don't think she ever thought she was any big muckamuck.



Post Co. Chairman **Don Graham** gives his niece and new publisher, **Katharine Weymouth**, a congratulatory embrace.

She never expected special treatment. And she loved to learn from the people around her, as does Don. If I am half the woman she was, I'd be lucky. But I don't know. I hope to be strong and a good example of leadership.

ST: Here's an opportunity to score some cool points. Talk about your aunt Tina. (Tina Weymouth, Katharine's father's sister, was bassist for the seminal new wave band the Talking Heads)

KW: What could I say? I wish I played an instrument as well as she did. I wouldn't

be sitting here. I'd be in a band.

ST: Do you keep in touch?

KW: No. To be honest, my dad has seven siblings and I didn't really grow up knowing that side of the family very well. I know her. I don't know her very well. I saw her when she came down to D.C. last and played with Tom Tom Club. Her husband is the drummer [Chris Frantz]. Sadly, I did not inherit her musical talent.

ST: Thank you for your time. I know you're probably really busy.

KW: No, that's okay. It's only the third day. I'm still just learning the ropes.

Following the interview, Director of Administration and Operation Services **Gary Corso** contacted ShopTalk to let the employees know Weymouth requested that a game room be built off of the Northwest Build-

ing cafeteria. It will have two new TVs, an air hockey table, a foosball table and a Wii gaming system. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 9:45 a.m. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Katharine Weymouth will be reaching out to employees through a quarterly column in ShopTalk. Details are forthcoming. A complete transcript of her remarks after being named publisher is available on Intranet.

Farewell



(Left to right) **Hugh Price**, Production, and Accounting's **Ilene Cook**, **Frank Platner** and **Nadeem Awan** enjoy some cake as part of Platner's going away shindig. Platner worked for The Post's Financial Accounting department for nine years. Three years ago, he was promoted to senior accountant in charge of newsprint accounting. Cook said, "He was known for his dedication in providing high-quality customer service."

Cheer On Tom

Don't forget to come out and support Assistant Managing Editor **Tom Wilkinson** and his team, the Geri-Hatricks, as they play a game between periods of the Washington Capitals versus Minnesota Wild game at the Verizon Center on Feb. 26.



Post Gifts Now On Sale

Looking for great gifts for clients or relatives with Post or Post Media logos on it? There are handy office supplies, clothing wear, tumblers, water bottles, mugs and a variety of weather gear for you. The items range from inexpensive to high-end. Special orders can also be placed. Please note that the Purchasing Department maintains a low inventory of products; therefore, an advance notice is highly recommended if you need to purchase a large quantity of items for your next project or promotional event.

The promo sales hours of operation will be: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The store is located in Purchasing on the first floor near the gym.

Dry Cleaning Service At The Post

Bergmann's Dry Cleaning will be offering their services to Post employees at a 25 percent discount

starting on March 3. The best part is that the drop-off and pick-up points will be conveniently at The Post. Employees will be able to sign up by providing a credit card number. They will be issued a dry cleaning bag that's assigned to their credit card on file. Bergmann's will be picking up and dropping off at the L Street entrance on Mondays and Thursdays between 11 a.m. and 1p.m. More information is forthcoming.

EAP Tip

February 11-17 is "Random Act of Kindness Week," aiming to inspire people to practice kindness and to "pass it on." According to the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, when kindness is expressed, healthy relationships are created, community connections are nourished and people are inspired to pass kindness on.

As part of APS Health-care's continuing effort to

promote the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), a tip sheet is now available near the Health Center or by contacting ShopTalk (onam@washpost.com). Remember: EAP is committed to being "Healthy Together" and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-800-765-0770 or at www.apshelplink.com. Just enter company code: Post.

New Game Room Coming

A new game room off of the Northwest Building cafeteria is being finished. It will have two new TVs, an air hockey table, a foosball table and a Wii gaming system. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 9:45 a.m.

Fit Shape 2008

The Fitness Center will continue offering free fitness classes during the month of February. Yoga instructor Viviana Chieme will have her morning class and new instructor Hawah will teach yoga on Wednesday evenings. Hip-hop aerobics will continue on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. Akido will not be available in February, but instructor Michael Veltri will return in the Spring. Classes are open to all employees and contractors. See Intranet for a description of classes.

Please contact the Health Center to sign up for classes at x4-7192.

Hip-Hop: Thursdays, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Morning Yoga: Mondays and Fridays, 8:00 to 8:30 a.m.

Evening Yoga: Wednesdays, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Marketplace

FOR SALE: Nationals season ticket holder eager to find partner(s) to purchase shares of a full season two-seat ticket plan. Among packages available are thirteen Sunday home games. Other shares available depending on your interest, but prefer to sell as multiple game season shares rather than individual games. Preference given to shareholders interested in a multi-year commitment, but will consider partners for 2008 season only. Great seats located on the aisle, section 135L, row P, seats 1 and 2, \$45 each. Check the website (<http://washington.nationals.mlb.com>). Contact Valerie at X6-2409 or kenyonv@washpost.com.

FOR RENT: Vacation week in Villas at The Boardwalk. This is a beautiful ocean-front resort in Virginia Beach. Check-in on Saturday, Sept. 6 and check-out on Sept. 13. One bedroom, two sofas and kitchen; sleeps up to six people. Amenities include: indoor pool, Jacuzzi, gym and restaurant. Asking for \$650. Contact Trinh at x4-4021 (leave a message between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.).

FOR RENT: Share lovely Arlington home in quiet convenient neighborhood. Near two metro stops. Reasonable rent price includes utilities in exchange for pet care when I travel. \$600/month. Call Carol at 202-412-8905 or x4-4832.

FOR SALE: Yard Maintenance Supplies: Honda Troy-Bilt push lawn mower, weed eater, yard barrel and leaf blower. All in good condition for \$160. Contact Nicole at 301-793-2039.

NEW MARKETPLACE DEADLINE: Close of business on Fridays. 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. ShopTalk reserves the right to publish and edit all ads.