

ShopTalk



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Editor, Mario Iván Oña, x4-6803

Chancellor Rhee Empowers Principals

Within a few minutes into her speech, it became evident why D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty has nearly wagered his entire political career on “this 37-year-old, little Korean woman,” as D.C. Schools

that seems indispensable in carrying out Mayor Fenty’s lofty, number one goal: fixing the fractured D.C. Public Schools System.

Rhee said that she finally accepted the newly formed position as chancellor last summer when she knew she would have the mayor’s full support. “When I took the job, the mayor laid it out pretty clearly,” she said. “He told everyone on his staff, ‘No one is allowed to tell Michelle no, except me.’” Indirectly, Rhee made a case for principals to trust and support their teachers. Throughout her speech, she used her own experiences to arm the principals with tools necessary to break through the fray and implement change.

She hinted that sometimes it is necessary to thwart or circumvent bureaucratic processes that do not work. As an example, she gave her own hiring. “Let’s be honest, I

wouldn’t be here if he’d [Mayor Fenty] follow the process.” She then said, “When I got here everyone supported me in making changes. But then they said, ‘Wow! Too much change! Too fast! Not the right process!’”

In her nine-month tenure, the divorced mother of two has ruled with a heavy hand. She’s unapologetically fired people and recommended shutting down 23 schools in the District. Rhee said that when she was told that she could not fire anyone unless “egregious misconduct” could be proven, she rhetorically retorted, “Well, can we fire for egregious incompetence?”

To everyone’s astonishment, Rhee divulged that



The Vincent E. Reed Principals Leadership Institute Class of 2008 made up by selected local area principals, along with the PLI Advisory Board, Vice President **Lionel Neptune** (top, right corner), Affiliates and Community Development, and PLI program manager **David Jones** (top, center), Public Relations.



D.C. Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee addresses principals and other educators during the 11th annual Vincent E. Reed Principals Leadership Institute graduation luncheon at The Post.

Chancellor Michelle Rhee described herself to a room full of educators. During the recent Vincent E. Reed Principals Leadership Institute graduation luncheon, Rhee exuded the kind of chutzpah

when she arrived she was told that no one in the D.C. Public Schools central office gets fired and that if there was a recurring pattern of ineptitude or incompetence, those folks would be sent back to the schools. Laying down the new paradigm, she said, “I believe the central office exists to serve the schools not rule the schools.”

Not surprisingly, her often controversial decisions have

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Post's 'Great Showing' in Design Competition

In a memorandum addressed to the newsroom, Assistant Managing Editor **Michael Keegan**, News Art, wrote, "I'm pleased to announce that The Post made a great showing in the recent Society of News Design com-

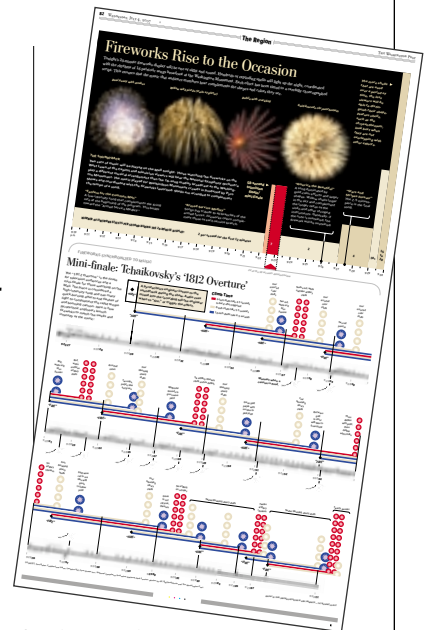
erage of the Super Bowl, Georgetown basketball and five days coverage of the NCAA tournament. The National News Desk took three awards of excellence for the Dick Cheney series.

Keegan also wrote that The Post was "one of 10 papers in the world (8 in our circulation size) to be recognized for infographics general excellence and we were one of two papers to win a silver award for graphics (no gold awards were given to graphics)."

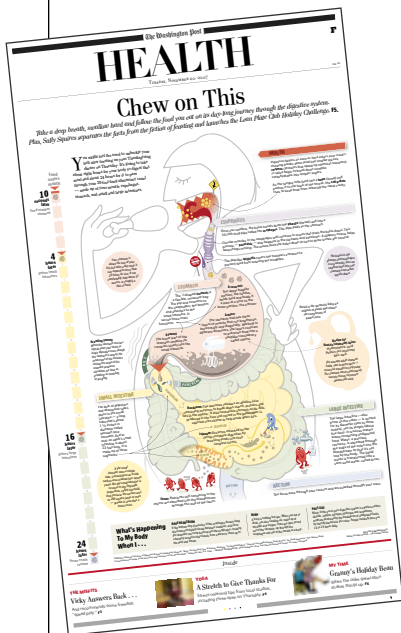
The following people from News (Investigative Reporting, News Art, Photo, Sports)

were recognized for their individual or team effort: **Bonnie Berkowitz, Carrie Camillo, Patterson Clark, Justin Ferrell, Seth Hamblin, Keith Jenkins, Laris Karklis, Jeff Leen, Andrea Caumont, Todd Lindeman, Brenna Maloney, Greg Manifold, John McDonnell, Jonathan Newton, Matt Rennie, Larry Roberts, Mitch Rubin, Chris Rukan, Laura Stanton, April Umminger, Jon Wile**

Visit snd.org for more information. ■



This design by **April Umminger** and **Todd Lindeman** earned a Silver Award for Information Graphics/ Charting.



One of the Award of Excellence-winning graphic designs submitted by The Post. Reporting by **Brenna Maloney** and graphic by **Laura Stanton**. The design won for the Information Graphic/Non-Breaking News or Feature category.

petition. These awards are given each year in recognition of outstanding layout, illustration, graphics and overall design of newspapers worldwide. This year there were over 14,000 entries."

In summary, The Post earned 12 awards. Information graphics took five individual awards, while staff graphics portfolio took another. Sports earned three awards of excellence for cov-

Society of News Design Competition Results

Silver Award

Charting: "Fireworks Rise to the Occasion" by April Umminger and Todd Lindeman

Award(s) of Excellence

Mapping: "The Hidden Cherry Blossoms" by April Umminger and Laris Karklis

Feature: "Operation Turkey" by Brenna Maloney and Laura Stanton

Feature: "Chew on This" by Brenna Maloney and Laura Stanton

News feature: "What Happened in Haditha" by Seth Hamblin and Laura Stanton

Staff portfolio:

"Salad Spinner" by Brenna Maloney and Laura Stanton

"Future Combat Systems" by Andrea Caumont and Todd Lindeman

"NCAA Coaching Connections" by Bonnie Berkowitz and Laura Stanton

"Inside Fenty's Office" by April Umminger and Todd Lindeman

"Chew on This" by Brenna Maloney and Laura Stanton

"Operation Turkey" by Brenna Maloney and Laura Stanton

Editor's Choice, National/ A-Section (two awards):

"Cheney Series," "Cheney Series" Day 1, "Cheney Series" Day 2 by Justin Ferrell, Art director; Jeff Leen, assistant managing editor for Investigative; Larry Roberts, deputy assistant managing editor for Investigative; Carrie Camillo, copy editor; Keith Jenkins, deputy assistant managing editor for Photo and Laura Stanton, graphic artist.

Inside page/Broadsheet: "Ring Around the Trophy" doubletruck by Mitch Rubin, Patterson Clark and Bonnie Berkowitz.

Editor's Choice, Sports (breaking news): "Hoyas Final Four" by Greg Manifold, deputy Sports editor for design; Jon Wile, lead Sports designer; Chris Rukan, Sports designer; Matt Rennie, deputy Sports editor; Bonnie Berkowitz, Sports graphic editor; Todd Lindeman, graphic artist; Jonathan Newton, photographer, and John McDonnell, photographer.

Editor's Choice, Sports (special news): "March Madness" by Greg Manifold; Jon Wile; Chris Rukan; Mitch Rubin, Sports designer; Matt Rennie and Bonnie Berkowitz.

been sharply criticized. She half-jokingly told the principals, “My mother always worried that I would grow up to be antisocial and when she visited me recently and watched the news following some of the firings, my mom said, ‘I guess it’s served you well.’” Rhee added, “People can talk about me all they want. I really don’t care and it doesn’t affect the decisions I have to make.”

Though at times she seemed defiant and slightly defensive, the overall tone of her speech was invigorating

and empowering.

“Every decision made is based on what is in the best interest of the children, not the adults or their needs,” she said. After explaining that the mayor did right in taking over the school system and ditching the school board model and appointing a chancellor, she said, “I can’t lead by consensus. I have to lead from the front and I can’t be mired by the politics.”



D.C. Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee addresses principals and other educators during the 11th annual Vincent E. Reed Principals Leadership Institute graduation luncheon.

Judging by the amount of heads nodding in agreement throughout Rhee’s remarks, it seemed most in the room believed that the younger, contagiously energetic Rhee could turn the D.C. Schools system around despite having

no prior experience in running a school system or despite six D.C. superintendents before her failing to make any significant improvements.

During the question and answer session, PLI Advisory Board member Helen Nobles-Jones praised Rhee for her “insane courage” and observed that Rhee’s passion and practical approach to problem-solving reminded her of PLI namesake and former Post vice president, Dr. Vincent E. Reed—a legendary D.C. educator. ■

Del. Norton Meets With YJDP Students

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton met with 50 students from two Young Journalists Development Program co-sponsored training events—the High School Writing Seminar and Scholarship Program and the Urban Journalism Workshop—on Saturday, Mar. 8, in the Northwest Building Auditorium.

Urban Journalism students who meet at various locations joined the Writing Seminar students, who meet at The Post. After a brief introduction by YJDP Director **Athelia Knight**, Norton, who gained national popularity for her multiple appearances on Comedy Central’s “The Colbert Report,” took questions from students in a press conference setting. The students practiced standing up, introducing themselves by name and school,



PHOTO - LAUREN BURKE

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton addresses students that recently took part into two Young Journalists Development Program training events: High School Senior Writing Seminar and Scholarship Program and the Urban Journalism Workshop.

and then asking their questions. She answered nearly a dozen questions in 45 minutes. As she was departing, several students followed her and asked her questions for the radio and television segments of the Urban Journalism Workshop.

Prior to the press conference, the Writing Seminar students worked on their interviewing, reporting and writing skills with Metro reporters

David Nakamura and **Nikita Stewart**.

Following the press conference, the students wrote their stories and submitted them to Knight by their deadline a few days later. Volunteer newsroom reporters and editors then read the stories and met with the students for one-on-one critiques a week later.

Knight said, “The students really appreciated the feedback from the Post volunteers. The one-on-one critiques will help the students in the seminar improve their skills.”

The two students with the best stories will receive a \$2,500 college scholarship from The Post and their stories will be published at blog.washingtonpost.com/hs.

The 18 Post staffers who provided one-on-on critiques were: **Ellen McCarthy, Scott**

Vogel, Amy Orndorff, JoAnn Goslin, Megan Greenwell, Miranda S. Spivack, Mark Berman, Kathryn Tolbert, Lori Aratani, Angie Wu, Amy Kovac, Ylan Mui, Amy Hitt, Joe Heim, Theresa Vargas, Ed Guzman, Keith Alexander and **David Betancourt**. **Jennifer Abella** coordinated the seminar and **Kevin Clark** discussed visual journalism.

Finally, **Tracey Reeves** and Vogel helped students develop their story ideas. Anyone interested in volunteering in YJDP events or in mentoring opportunities should contact Knight at knighnta@washpost.com or x4-7132.

The seminar is co-sponsored with the Asian American Journalists Association and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. The workshop is co-sponsored with the Washington Association of Black Journalists. ■

Become a Post Hunt Volunteer

WHAT: The Post Hunt is a huge mutant brainteaser—a kind of urban safari, where participants will be hunting for the answers to silly puzzles woven into the streetscape of Washington’s eclectic neighborhood of Chinatown/Penn Quarter. The three, who are



sorta the Socrates, Plato and Aristotle of humor journalism (Post columnist **Gene Weingarten** hired syndicated columnist Dave Barry, who Post Magazine Editor **Tom Shroder** then edited) came up with and refined the famous Tropic Hunt (now known as the Herald Hunt)—a city-wide contest started in Miami, where contestants solve puzzles that lead to more puzzles for the chance to score some sweet prizes. Now, they’re bringing their shenanigans to D.C.

WHEN: Sunday, May 18 from noon to 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: City Center Lot A (Old Convention Center site) Near Chinatown/Penn Quarter

WHAT (Part 2): Any Post employee interested in volunteering at this event and attending the volunteer after party can contact **Carla Taylor** at taylorcy@washpost.com or at x4-6494

YUMMY: Mark your calendars for The Post Hunt volun-

teer orientation pizza party on Thursday, Apr. 17 at noon in the Northwest Building auditorium. Shroder will give an overview of the Hunt and volunteer roles will be discussed.

Check out upcoming ShopTalk issues for more information and updates!

Join the Race for the Cure Post Team

The 2008 Komen National Race for the Cure is on Saturday, June 7. Once again, The Post will have a team.



Employees and their friends and family can join The Post team. All Post team participants receive a team shirt and are invited to a pre-race breakfast at The Post on race day. **Alexandra McNair**, Advertising, is the new team captain and can be contacted at x4-7045 or mcnaira@washpost.com for more information about joining team.

Donate to Green Door

As reported recently in ShopTalk, Green Door—in partnership with local D.C. organizations and businesses—provide mentally ill women and men with employment opportunities and a chance to achieve independence. Every month the organization collects various goods ranging from clothes for job interviews to computers for sending resumes to unused Metro cards for getting to and from work. Visit:

greendoor.org to view Green Door’s April Wish List. Anyone wishing to donate something can contact ShopTalk Editor Mario Iván Oña at x4-6803 or onom@washpost.com

EAP Tip

Whether conflict occurs in our personal life or in the workplace, it typically conjures up unfavorable thoughts of hurt feelings, disappointment, anger and tension. As part of APS Healthcare’s continuing effort to promote the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), a tip sheet on “Understanding Workplace Conflict” is now available near the Health Center or by contacting ShopTalk (onom@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.apsheplink.com. Just enter company code: Post.

Dream Job Auction

The Workforce Organizations for Regional Collaboration’s or WORC’s third annual, Post-sponsored Dream Job Auction will take place on May 1 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown (D.C.). All proceeds will go toward fulfilling WORC’s mission of “providing the chance for thousands of people in the Greater Washington region to have access to jobs, ultimately allowing them to create a better life for themselves and their families.”

Among the “dream jobs” (for a day) up for grabs: producing ABC 7 Evening News, covering national politics with NPR White House correspondent David Greene, flying a fighter jet, managing the Washington Nationals and commanding a riverboat, among many others. To read more about the event, go to: www.DreamJobAuction.org.

Marketplace

FOR RENT: House apartment in Crofton, Md./Room in Bowie, Md. Rent a two bedroom, one bathroom house apartment with washer and dryer, all new appliances, new carpet, new paint, one-car garage, fenced patio, nice walking area and pond (in development). Available immediately for \$1,200 per month and one-month deposit. Also available: One room for rent with private entrance and private bathroom in Bowie, Md. (Glen Dale border line) for \$400 per month with one-month deposit. Available on April 1. Contact Angelo at x6-1416 or 301-464-5184 or at valeraa@washpost.com.

FOR HIRE: Personal gourmet catering service at reasonable prices and the food is fantastic. Kids cooking classes also available. Visit: acquiredtastecatering.com. Contact Robert at 202-359-9895.

FOR SALE: Check out the Nats at their new stadium versus the Florida Marlins. Really good season holder tickets available for April 7 and 10. Aisle seats, section 135L, row P, seats 1 and 2. \$90 for two tickets per game. Other games against anyone but the San Francisco Giants may be available. Contact Valerie at x6-2409 or 703-973-9194.

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