

ShopTalk

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Editor, Mario Iván Oña, x4-6803

Gene Robinson Earns Commentary Pulitzer

Columnist **Gene Robinson** earned his first Pulitzer Prize for his columns about Barack Obama's historic campaign and election.

As is customary, Post employees gathered around the newsroom at 3 p.m. on Monday, April 20, and waited for Executive Editor **Marcus Brauchli** to get the word via the wire.

After Brauchli acknowledged having inherited the "world's best newsroom" from **Len Downie** and **Phil Bennett**, he turned it over to Editorial Page Editor **Fred Hiatt** to introduce Robinson.

"Profound, moving, prescient commentary on the most engrossing and consequential political story of recent time," Hiatt said. "That's the description on Eugene Robinson's Pulitzer Prize. It's an understatement to what he gave us last year." Hiatt then read excerpts from

Robinson's winning columns.

In "Cards From a Worn-Out Deck," published on Jan. 29, 2008—three days after the South Carolina Democratic primary—Robinson wrote: "Now, the question had nothing to do with Jesse Jackson. So why do you suppose such an expert on American politics as Bill Clinton, with no prompting, would bring up contests that took place decades ago. The only possible reason for invoking Jackson's name was to telegraph the following message: Barack Obama is black, so if a lot of black people decide to vote for him—doubtless out of racial solidarity—it doesn't really mean squat." Robinson wrote that among other reasons for his remark, Clinton's apparent aim was to "pigeonhole Obama as 'a black candidate...'" because the more prominent race becomes in this campaign, the more likely it is that she [Hillary Clinton] will win the nomination. They don't call us a 'minority' for nothing."

And in "Morning in America," published two days after the election, Robinson didn't let emotional restraint get in the way of visceral writing: "I almost lost it again when I spoke with Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), one of the bravest leaders of the civil rights crusade, and asked whether he had ever dreamed he would live to see this day. As Lewis looked for words beyond 'unimaginable,' I

thought of the beating he received on the Edmund Pettus Bridge and the scars his body still bears. I did lose it, minutes before the television networks projected that Barack Obama would be the 44th president of the United States, when I called my parents in Orangeburg, S.C. I thought of the sacrifices they made and the struggles they endured so that my generation could climb higher. I felt so happy that they were here to savor this incredible moment." Robinson's father passed away on Jan. 2.

With colleagues and family huddled around the newsroom, Robinson took the floor and opened by comparing the 2008 campaign to the magical, fictional town of Macondo, where Gabriel García Márquez's "One Hundred Years of Solitude"—Robinson's favorite novel by one of his favorite writers—is set. He said, "It is a place where the impossible becomes merely improbable and the improbable becomes commonplace."

"It is a great honor and privilege to win this award for coverage of the biggest political event in my lifetime and one that has such personal meaning for me," Robinson said.

For Robinson, who experienced segregation first hand, the election of the first African American president went beyond the pride that engulfed most Americans. In his biography on the Source, Robinson



Hold that thought. Columnist **Gene Robinson** sips on some bubbly in celebration of his Pulitzer Prize. The Post was also named a finalist in five categories.

wrote: "I attended a segregated, all-black school through junior high. Word of Brown v. Board of Education finally reached Orangeburg around 1967, and I went to 'the white high school' across town." But beyond that, what also made Robinson uniquely qualified to write authoritatively about this chapter of American history was the parallel between his own trajectory and Obama's.

After high school, Robinson attended the University of Michigan, where he jettisoned ambitions of becoming an architect after joining the school paper and realizing that he could make a living writing. He met his wife while working at the San Francisco Chronicle. He started at The Post in January 1980 covering Marion Barry. During a Nieman Fellowship in 1987, he picked up Spanish and

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Post Co. Chairman **Don Graham** congratulates columnist **Gene Robinson** for earning the Pulitzer Prize for commentary. In his remarks, Robinson thanked Graham for "making all of this possible, but also for keeping all of this possible."

The Washington Post Employee Golf Tournament

**Where: Augustine Golf Club
Monument Drive
Stafford, Virginia
(540) 720-7374**

From I-95 South, take Exit 140 Stafford, 630 West – Courthouse Road.
Go 3.5 miles and turn left at light onto Monument Drive.
Go approximately three-quarters of a mile to Augustine Golf Club on left.

When: Monday, June 8, 2009

**Time: 7:30 a.m. Registration
8:30 a.m. Shotgun start**

Cost: \$85 per person
Includes: Breakfast, Greens fee, Cart, Use of Practice Facilities,
Lunch and Player's Gift.
Note: Softspike facility, proper golf attire required

Format: Four-Person Captain's Choice
Each player tees off and the captain chooses the best shot.
From that position each player then hits the second shot and
continues until the hole is finished.

**Prizes: First Place Team
Second Place Team
Third Place Team
Men's Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin
Ladies' Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin
Door Prizes**



Please sign-up as a foursome and return this form and your entrance fee to the contacts listed below by May 22. Checks should be made payable to The Washington Post. If you don't have a foursome, sign-up and you will be matched with other players.

.....

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please fill out this form and return via interoffice mail or call:
Rich Martin, IT x4-7531 **John Harper, Springfield x6-2461** **Sherry Gryder, College Park x6-1115**

The tournament is open to Post employees at the paper and Web site, their families, retirees and Post vendor employees.

became The Post's South American correspondent in Buenos Aires. After being the London correspondent, he became the foreign editor in 1994 and the Style assistant managing editor in 1999. In February 2005, he started writing columns. Today, Robinson's column is syndicated and he's a prominent MSNBC political analyst, who often gets to playfully duke it out with ornery conservative pundit Pat Buchanan on the air.

Robinson continued his remarks by thanking his parents and in-laws for the opportunities they created. He then thanked his wife, Avis, and sons, Aaron and Lowell, for sticking with him throughout his career. He humorously recalled "abandoning them in the middle of the jungle in Brazil" to go cover a story and returning to the hotel

a few days later to find them patiently waiting for him. He then thanked his Post colleagues, including the Editorial staff, who edit his work and save him from "embarrassment approximately twice a week."

In introducing Robinson, Hiatt said, "Most of the best work will never get a Pulitzer, that's why there's something especially terrific when someone like Gene wins this prize. Because Gene has done it all in the newsroom... you can see in every wonderful column, the reporting skills, the mastery of writing and the knowledge of the world he accumulated here. And something else happened in those years, Gene became someone who is universally respected, admired and loved. The Pulitzer Board got this one right."

Editor's Note: To read Robinson's winning columns, go to tinyurl.com/cd5dms.

The Post was also named a finalist in five categories:

- Explanatory Reporting: **Robert O'Harrow Jr.** and **Brady Dennis** for their explanation of why AIG nearly collapsed.
- National Reporting: **Amy Goldstein** and **Dana Priest** for their exploration of U.S. immigration detention centers.
- International Reporting: Staff for its examination of how females in the developing world are often oppressed from birth to death.
- Editorial Writing: **Charles Lane** for his editorials on the nation's economic collapse.
- Feature Photography: **Carol Guzy** for her coverage of childbirth in Sierra Leone, where women face the highest maternal mortality rate in the world.

Of note, Jon Meacham, editor of Newsweek, owned by The Post Co., won the biography Pulitzer for his book "American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House."

Moonlighting Thespian

Brad Pitt stopped by The Post to meet with him. Russell Crowe "man-hugged" him. Dame Helen "The Queen" Mirren tossed cheeky comments at him. And rising star Rachel McAdams attended a play with him, where they were both thronged by her fans during intermission. Just another day in the life of Metro editor **R.B. Brenner**? Well, not exactly.

When Academy Award-winning director Kevin Macdonald came to The Post nearly two summers ago, then-Executive Editor **Len Downie** asked Brenner if he'd have lunch with the red-hot "Last King of Scotland" director. Brenner agreed, and within a few months, he became a consultant on Macdonald's

next big project—the newsroom thriller "State of Play." He showed Macdonald and Pitt around the newsroom, before Pitt dropped out of the project and was replaced by Crowe.

Before long, Brenner found himself in Crowe's Beverly Hills hotel suite helping to pick the

script apart and asking himself how he went from editing Metro articles on 15th and L to hobnobbing with some of the biggest cheeses in the biz and getting his own director's chair—with "R.B. Brenner" embroidered on it and all.

Brenner, who is on academic leave teaching a graduate journalism course at the University of Texas in Austin, came back into town on April 9 for a PostPoints pre-screening of the movie at the Regal Cinemas in Chinatown. Following the movie, Brenner and movie critic **Dan Zak** discussed the film and answered questions, while Travel writer **Carol Sottili** moderated the event.

When asked how the film's portrayal of journalism stacked up against the real deal, Brenner said that while the production team went to great lengths to capture some

minute details, including asking Brenner for photographs of the type of shoes and clothes that reporters wear, there were several moments that were all Hollywood. To sort of exonerate himself from having allowed—as the journalism consultant—the movie to

abandon its credibility, Brenner explained that he did his best to keep things as authentic as possible, but sometimes the production team's loyalty to the plot trumped everything.

When jokingly

asked how he prepared for his two-line role opposite Mirren, Brenner dodged the question like a skilled politician, offering up a juicy anecdote instead. He said that following the scene, Mirren made him blush by "whispering a rather risqué congratulations" having to do with Brenner losing his "acting virginity."

Judging by the who's who of Post editors who filed in to watch Brenner's big-screen debut, it wouldn't be far-fetched to suggest Brenner already has a little of his own star-power muscle to flex. But in reality, his luster probably has little to do with his blink-and-you'll-miss-him cameo



R.B. Brenner sporting his very own director's chair on the set of "State of Play."



Several Post editors, including former Managing Editor **Phil Bennett**, Metro Assistant Managing Editor **Bob McCartney** and Sports Assistant Managing Editor **Emilio Garcia-Ruiz**, cheered on R.B. Brenner's cameo in "State of Play."



Editor **R.B. Brenner** with Russell Crowe at Ben's Chili Bowl during the filming of "State of Play," now in theaters. Brenner served as a consultant during production and had a short, two-line cameo with Academy Award-winning actress Helen Mirren.

and everything to do with his writing prowess, as displayed in his exquisite recounting of the experience, which appeared in The Post on April 12 (tinyurl.com/c59uu3).

"Crowe's voice booms across the room," Brenner writes. "Surely, he asserts, a journalist who's been given photos that break open a sensational crime story would never jeopardize the scoop by sharing them with the police. Right?"

"I've known him less than 48 hours," Brenner continues. "Not long enough to gauge whether he finds me useful or a pest. Certainly not long enough to calculate whether the answer I'm about to give will earn me an icy glare or a nod of respect.

"My new, surreal role as a pampered movie consultant is quite agreeable: hanging out with A-list celebrities, traveling first-class, staying near the beach in Santa Monica, fattening up on catered meals. It would be nice to stick around."

"It also would be nice to leave with some integrity intact."

Do You Know Any High School Journalists?

Do you know a rising high school junior or senior or a graduating high school senior interested in becoming a journalist? The Post will conduct its third annual Digital Workshop for Young Journalists on Aug. 10-14 with a mandatory orientation Aug. 8. The workshops organized by Post Digital, will expose aspiring journalists to digital storytelling. So if you have a son, daughter, nephew or niece or you mentor a young journalist, let them know about this program. The deadline to apply is Friday, May 1. To download an application, visit washingtonpost.com/highschoolworkshop. Contact hsworkshop@washingtonpost.com if you have any questions.

For Shopping Lovers Only

Tell your friends and family or sign up yourself for DC Scout: Your Guide to D.C.'s Best Shopping, Style and Deals. Receive free shopping newsletters that can save you money. DC Scout will also bring Shecky's Girls Night Out from April 23-25 at DAR Constitution Hall. To sign up for D.C. Scout visit www.dcsout.com.

Pillow Drive

Christine Haynes, Advertising, is helping her 8-year-old daughter with a pillow/blanket/teddy bear drive for My Sister's Place—a shelter for battered women and children. You can either donate \$3 toward the purchase of pillows, blankets or teddy bears, or you can donate the items yourself. The items must be new and unisex, and blankets should be twin or double. Contact Haynes at x4-4053.

Become a Post Fan On Facebook and YouTube

To become a Post Facebook Fan: <http://tinyurl.com/cu5rgf>. To become a Post YouTube Fan: <http://tinyurl.com/c3aksx>.

Looking for Post Hunt Volunteers

Mark your calendars. The second annual Post Hunt will take place on May 17 from noon to 5 p.m. If you missed last year's event, Post Hunt masterminds columnist Dave Barry, columnist **Gene Weingarten** and Post Magazine Editor **Tom Shroder** would probably tell you that you stink—er, feel sorry for you. If you would like to volunteer for this citywide, brain-scrambling, puzzle/

scavenger hunt, contact **Julie Perlstein** at perlsteinjm@washpost.com or at x4-7244. This year's PostHunt ground zero will be Freedom Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue between 13th and 14th streets. You are encouraged (really, really, really encouraged) to tell all your friends and family about the Hunt, but also to come out to volunteer.

Note to All Post Employees

It is imperative that all Post employees contact **Monica Williams** at the switchboard at x4-6000 or **Mary Robinson** x4-7880 to ensure that their contact information is up to date. If you are new at The Post, you absolutely need to call and provide your contact information. The information is used to reach you in an emergency, a crisis or if someone is trying to contact you from outside the building.

Printing Services

For all of your printing needs, look no further than The Post's own Printing Services. Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They offer the following services:

- Digital color/black and white printing and copying
- Finishing, folding, cutting, laminating and binding
- Shredding

You can easily upload any digital project and request your order at the Post Print on Demand (PPOD) site at: freeflowwebsrv.washpost.com/ws/. Contact **Kunle Aboderin** at x4-5563 or at aboderina@washpost.com with any questions.

Use ShopTalk to Communicate Internally

Communicating new initiatives and programs through ShopTalk can assist employees at the paper and Web site in working together more efficiently. It

In the Green Corner

Fact:

Hazardous waste has been essentially eliminated from The Post's printing operation by using non-hazardous material formulas and by recycling waste.

Green Tip:

Consider carpooling or slugging. You can connect with other commuters at eride-share.com to carpool. To find out more about picking up slugs or being a slug, visit slug-lines.com.



can also empower employees to become word-of-mouth advocates. Finally, ShopTalk can also be used to publicly recognize outstanding colleagues. Contact **Mario Iván Oña** at x4-6803 or onom@washpost.com with any tips or suggestions.

Corrections:

- In the April 10 ShopTalk story "Expanded Staff Meeting Highlights" on page 3, the following names were misspelled or omitted: **Scott Higham** and Sylvia Moreno. Both, along with **Sari Horwitz**, were recognized by Publisher **Katharine Weymouth** for their investigative reporting series on the murder of Chandra Levy. The series recently earned a Virginia Press Association award.
- On the back page of the April 10 ShopTalk, **Judy Smith** was incorrectly identified as **Judy Wall**. Smith was one of the Director's Club Winners shown in the photograph.

Toasting Her 20



*Eugene Meyer Award recipient **Grace Carter**, Accounting, celebrates her 20th anniversary of working at The Post. A few of her colleagues took her to the nearby Post Pub to mark the occasion.*

PHOTO BY: SANDRA HINTON