

Shop Talk

Published weekly by the Public Relations Department of
The Washington Post Editor: Margaret Jannetti X-6803

Vol. 10, No.3

January 24, 1985

Leonard Downie, Managing Editor

In the summer of 1984 **LEONARD DOWNIE** took the baton from Howard Simons as Managing Editor of The Washington Post. Getting adjusted to this demanding position was trial enough, but Downie did it in a Presidential election year. So Shop Talk was delighted when he recently made time to share his thoughts on the job, the paper and his ideas for the future.

The Washington Journalism Review referred to Downie as a "product of The Post." And he does not dispute the label, "I was raised on The Post by **BEN BRADLEE** (Executive Editor), and Howard Simons (former Managing Editor)," said Downie. He has been AME/Metro, London correspondent and National Editor, he has written book reviews for Book World, and edited and written for

Sports and Style. Downie is the author of three books, Justice Denied, Mortgage on America and The New Muckrakers, all products of his early investigative reporting.

The advantage of beginning his career at The Post was evident by the ease with which he took over as Managing Editor. Downie feels that he was

(continued on page 3)



Managing Editor, **LEONARD DOWNIE**.



Leonard Downie and Senator Joseph Tydings on the steps of the Capitol. In 1967 Tydings' District subcommittee and a Federal grand jury probed the District's questionable second mortgage practices exposed by Downie.

Sharing Traditions

Sharing Traditions is a tribute to five black artists in nineteenth-century America. The National Museum of American Art has chosen 49 works by these artists who largely contributed to the mainstream of art in America. The exhibition runs from January 16 until April 7 and will be accompanied by a series of public programs in celebration of Black History Month, February 1985. The programs, funded by The Washington Post and the Smithsonian Institution Special Educational Outreach Funds, will include symposia, lectures, concerts, dramatic performances, poetry readings and activities led by relatives of the artists beginning January 31 until February 28.

The exhibit focuses on portraits by Joshua Johnston, believed to be the first Afro-American to acquire fame as a portraitist; landscapes by Robert Scott Duncanson whose work was well received throughout Europe; landscapes by Edward Mitchell Bannister as well as his famous painting of the Newspaper Boy; marble sculpture by Edmonia Lewis, the first known Afro-American woman sculptor; and Henry Ossawa Tanner who used biblical and North African subjects for his paintings.

The Post's community outreach program, in a continuing effort to participate in the community, also sponsored a reception and preview of the exhibition for supporters of the exhibit, local business people and members of the community. **KATHARINE GRAHAM**, Post Company Chairman of the Board, **TOM FERGUSON**, President and General Manager of



Edward Mitchell Bannister's "Newspaper Boy" 1869 oil on canvas.



"Hagar" 1875 marble sculpture by Edmonia Lewis.

The Post, and Vice President/Communications, **VINCENT REED**, were on hand to greet the 500 guests which included the former Mayor of the District of Columbia, Walter Washington, and his wife Bennetta.

Anyone interested in the programs connected with the exhibition throughout February may contact the Public Relations Office to obtain a complete schedule of events.



Guests attending the preview exhibition and reception read about Henry Ossawa Tanner.

continued from page 1

properly prepared for the position, so the transition from National Editor to Managing Editor was not overpowering. The toughest adjustment he has had to make is in his time priorities. "I knew it would be difficult, but sometimes it is overwhelming — the amount of time I spend on the job," he said. He pointed out that it is very hard to properly balance time between family and work.

Sitting on the off-white sofa in his office, Downie did not seem at all the busy man that he is. Open and straight forward he waited patiently between questions. Each question was answered thoughtfully, purposefully and not once did his cooperation waiver.

What are your responsibilities as the Managing Editor?

"The Managing Editor is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the news-gathering staff under Ben Bradlee. I handle everything from the budgets and personnel to special reporting. I also supervise the work of the AMEs in each section."

What is the biggest day-to-day difference from being National Editor?

"Well, I'm further from the stories —

news itself — as a supervisor. Instead of being involved with the news stories I'm more acquainted with them now."

How do you feel about The Post as a "local paper," does The Post serve the community well, in your opinion?

"We have greatly improved in that area over the last few years, by increasing coverage not only in the District but in the entire metropolitan area. The Post has established easily accessible, store-front offices as our suburban bureaus, and the Weeklies have increased community information.

In what areas does the paper need improvement?

"We need to continue to improve quality control in the newsroom. There are still many editing mistakes and I'm afraid that sometimes we are not responsive enough to readers and corrections."

There is a common thought that The Post, as well as other big newspapers, is really two papers, the national paper and the local paper, what are your thoughts on that?

"Actually, The Post is many more than two papers. It serves many differ-

ent audiences, I don't know anyone who reads the paper from cover to cover and is interested in every article in every section."

What do you want the readers to get out of the paper, aside from being news-informed?

"It should be enjoyable reading along with the heavy news. Sections like Weekend and the Calendar help people have fun and realize that everything in the paper is not all doom and gloom."

What do you want The Post to accomplish — where do you see it heading?

"I want The Post to continue to do a good job of serving many audiences. On one level we are a local paper: dependable, strong and responsible. We show that by supplying information people want in The Neighborhood Report, District, Maryland and Virginia Weeklies, and the Calendars, all of which are equally as important as, say, White House coverage. We are one of the leaders in Foreign news and we continue to improve. The Post is a pre-eminent newspaper on national affairs and the federal government."



Downie leads the daily story conference where, according to an assistant news editor for the news desk, JOHN ALLEN, "the AMEs come in to plead their cases (stories) for the front page."

Post Scripts

NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH?—The Health Center's **DIANE HAYS** won a free lunch for two at Twigs Restaurant. Hays' name was chosen from the first 50 responses to the Shop Talk Questionnaire in December. Hays laughed and said, "You made my day. I've never eaten at Twigs before but I'm looking forward to it."



DIANE HAYS, winner of lunch for two at Twigs Restaurant.

TICKETS ANYONE?—Choose tickets for any or all of the following stage productions from the Recreation Association:
 South Pacific
 42nd Street
 La Cage Aux Folles
 Handel Festival
 Julius Caesar (the first of three operas)
 For more information call **LYNN MABUCHI**, x4485.

CPR CLASSES—The Northwest and the Southeast Health Centers are planning to give CPR classes during the day or evening, but first they need to know how many people are interested. The tentative dates are February 11 and 12. The times of the classes will not be set until the number of interested employees is known. Please call the Northwest

Health Center anytime, x7192 or call Nancy after 9:30 p.m. at the Southeast plant, x7577.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS—The Recreation Association election of officers for 1985 will be February 12. Anyone interested in running for office please notify one of the members of the Nominating Committee: **JEANNEANE JOYNER** x7790, **MOLLI MARTIN** x7744, or **DIANE YAMINI** x6115. A brief job description will be posted on Cafeteria and other area bulletin boards.

ALLIED INVASION — **GEORGE CHEKAN** met the allies, again, on January 11. With family, friends and co-workers as witnesses, Chekan was decorated with a medal by Britain's General Montgomery (Advertising's **LEE BLOUNT**) and the United States' General Patton (**CARL BEYER** from Advertising Art), at his retirement party. The reason for the medal remains a secret, that Chekan chooses not to tell, but both sides of the Atlantic enjoyed the festivities.



General Montgomery and General Patton made a surprise appearance at **GEORGE CHEKAN'S** retirement party.

Marketplace

WANTED—A kind, reliable, loving and attentive person to care for 6-month-old child named Christopher 2 days a week. The days and pay are negotiable. Prefer someone who can come to my home in Silver Spring but this is not essential. References required. Please call Michael Dirda, x7885 or 589-6412.

FOR SALE—Movie screen, 6'x 6' wall hanging model. Retail at \$100 will sell for \$50. A-1 condition, but I'm buying a larger one. Call Jerry, x7377 or 931-8561.

SAILING & SEAMANSHIP—A course by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary begins February 4 at 7:00 p.m. at Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt, Maryland. For information please call Chuck, x6709 or 552-1512.

WET SUIT—Men's shortie scuba wet suit size medium, red on blue. Worn 2 weeks in fresh water only. Occupant grew 6 inches over winter. Was \$75, now \$45 or will swap for men's large. In beautiful condition. Call Pat, x7066 or 593-3240.

SHIH-TZU PUPS—AKC, 3 males, black and white, 9 weeks. Shots, wormed. Call Carla, x7341 2:00 p.m.-8:00p.m. or (703)786-4346.

DELICIOUS NATURAL HONEY—From Singer Farm, \$4 a quart. See Feltzin, composing room on 4th floor, 2:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. or call x7830 or x7162.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL—Books are needed for the annual Children's Hospital fundraising Book Sale. If you have any books in good condition that you no longer want or need please bring them to Jeanneane Joyner in Composing on the 4th Floor of the Northwest plant or call x7790 or x7524, 2:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. M-F or 354-5020.

FOR SALE—Freezer, 10.3 cubic feet, like new. \$180. Call x7410 or 455-5580.

INTELLEVISION I CARTRIDGES—17 adventure, sports, etc. \$5 each; 2 voice cartridges, \$8 each; voice module, \$15. All good condition. Son has gone on to bigger things! Call 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. weekdays, x7676 or 963-6411.

CANOE—16-foot, 3-ply ABS hull, oak seats, poplar gunwales, pine bow and stern caps. Light weight, good tumblehome. Four years old, in excellent condition. \$325. Call Paul Valentine, x7507 or evenings & weekends, 244-8684.

FOR SALE—LP Congos, \$200 and Tempo blocks, \$100. Call Leonard, x7863 or 630-7076.

HOUSE FOR RENT—Tiny two bedroom; central air. One block from Chesapeake Bay in North Beach Park, Anne Arundel County. \$350, deposit required. Call Joan, x4262 or 843-2317.

1983 VOLKSWAGON GTI—2-door, A/C, AM/FM cassette, and sun roof. Best offer over \$6550. Call Lloyd, x6960 or 449-8028.

1980 TOYOTA—4-door lift back, 39,000 miles, 5-speed. P/S, A/C, AM/FM cassette, rear-window defogger, excellent condition. Best offer over \$4380. Call Lloyd, x6960 or 449-8028.

SIGHT AND HEARING NEEDS—Lions Club members Bill Benner and Tim Land in Circulation, and Dick Nichols in Accounting are collecting eyeglasses and hearing aids for refitting and distribution to the needy. Any condition is acceptable. Call x6223 or 354-4094 (Dick Nichols). Thanks!

FOR SALE—1982 Mercury Lynx Wagon. Standard 4/speed. A/C, AM/FM radio, roof rack, rear-window defroster. \$4200. Call x7961 — days, 548-2645—evenings.

CARPOOL—Vicinity of I-495 and Rte. 50 to The Post. Hours from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.. Contact Jill, x7918 or 280-2259.

OWN YOUR OWN—Some graphic artist must need a stat camera. I have a Duo-Stat, self enclosed (needs no dark room) camera, processor, and some supplies. \$750 or best offer. Call Micki, x6127 or 723-8247.

MARKETPLACE DEADLINE: Noon on Wednesday one week prior to publication date. Please include your name, extension and home telephone number. Send ads to Shop Talk, seventh floor, or call x6803. Ads will run two weeks unless otherwise requested. One ad per employe, please!