

Behind the opinions

A user's guide to the commentary pages of *The Dallas Morning News*

Editorial Page

Editorials represent the institutional opinion of the newspaper. That opinion is shaped by the editorial board on behalf of the newspaper's owners. The editorial board is advisory to Vice President and Editorial Page Editor Keven Ann Willey, who is advisory to the newspaper's editor and publisher. The editorial board has developed this statement of philosophy to guide its thinking:

"As the soul of the newspaper and the conscience of the community, the editorial pages provoke, inspire and challenge readers. We believe in a progressive conservatism that advocates civil rights, fiscal responsibility, environmental stewardship, effective local governments, public accountability and an internationalist foreign policy."

How editorial opinions are developed: Editorial board members offer topic ideas during regular staff meetings. The topic, message and tone of the proposed editorial are often hotly debated. The editor listens carefully to the debate, selects a course of action and asks for a volunteer writer. Often the editorial writer whose arguments have carried the day volunteers. Editorials are unsigned because they represent the institution's view, rather than the view of the individual writer.

The best editorials are persuasive, compelling, relevant to readers, passionate, constructive, timely and provocative. They are well researched and smartly written. They are, by definition, opinionated.

Sometimes, the most powerful editorial is a photo with a single sentence. Other times, it's a 1,000-word treatise. The power is in the topic selection, the logic employed and the rhythm of the writing. In shaping the content of daily and weekly commentary pages, the editors keep the department's five aspirations top of mind: Provide strong community leadership, provide a forum for informed debate, get new voices/viewpoints on the pages, actively engage readers and increase readership of these pages and the newspaper as a whole.

KEVEN ANN WILLEY
Vice president and editorial page editor, 48



At *The Dallas Morning News* since late 2002, Keven developed her interest in politics early. When her family lived in Washington, D.C., her mother used to take Keven as a baby in her bassinets to the U.S. Senate gallery to watch the likes of Everett Dirksen and Estes Kefauver debate the issues of the day. Three decades later, Keven was a political columnist for *The Arizona Republic* in a state that for most of the '80s and '90s was best known for impeaching, indicting or otherwise politically impaling its governors. Her editorial pages in Arizona were twice finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. Keven studied briefly in Europe and Mexico before graduating magna cum laude from Northern Arizona University and starting (but never finishing) a master's program in Spanish literature. She and her chef husband enjoy hiking and biking.

E-mail kwilley@dallasnews.com

MASTHEAD

This tells you the paper's top news executives and past publishers.

Additional executives are listed on 2A.

The Dallas Morning News

Established October 1, 1885

Publishers

Bannerman Dealey 1885-1949
I. (Ike) Dealey 1949-1980
W. M. Dealey 1980-1988
J. M. Moroney Jr. 1980-1985
John A. Rector Jr. 1985-1986
Bud Osborne 1986-2001

James M. Moroney III
Publisher and Chief Executive Officer

Robert W. Mang Jr.
Editor

George Rodriguez
Vice President, Managing Editor

Keven Ann Willey
Vice President, Editorial Page Editor

Saturday, November 4, 2006

EDITORIALS

Over-Exposed

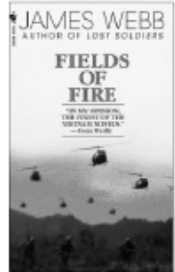
Vilifying opponents' lewd books is hardly novel

With Democrat James Webb improbably threatening to end his U.S. Senate career, maladroit Virginia Gov. George Allen unleashed his secret weapon last week: He attacked Webb's novels. Webb is not only a former Republican congressman but an accomplished novelist. He writes about the brutality of the dehumanization of a decorated Vietnam War veteran. The short passages of his campaign would be, to most observers, distasteful. One Virginia state legislator gaped that the Webb novels were "wait for it... unfit for children. Oh, the humanity."

is. Many don't do it well in any respect, but scenes involving sex are notoriously difficult to pull off artfully, even for professional writers. What hope could political figures with literary ambitions possibly have?

Consider this clumsy lesbian scene from a 1981 novel by a famous Republican: "The women were Adam and Eve crossing a dark cathedral stage — no, Eve and Eve, loving one another as they would not be able to once they ate of the fruit and knew themselves as they truly were."

Now, if Mr. Allen were to attack the author of that chestnut as unfit for office based on this, he would not only have to contend with her long, exemplary record of public service but also her husband, Vice President Dick Cheney. Yes, the author of that except is Lynn Cheney.



EDITORIAL

Here we offer the newspaper's institutional opinion.

Hits and Misses

A breath of fresh air

North Texas has reached an important air quality benchmark, meeting the EPA's one-hour standard for ozone levels. The EPA sets maximum acceptable levels for air pollutants. And for 10 years, Dallas-Fort Worth has been designated a non-attainment area because of our dirty air. North Texas still must meet more stringent eight-hour standards to comply with federal regulations. But this sign of progress does have us breathing a small sigh of relief.

Happy birthday, Family Gateway!

When we think of the homeless, most people probably don't picture families, much less children. But the Family Gateway knows that many North Texas families are just one paycheck away from homelessness and that many of them have nowhere to turn. The organization, which celebrated its 20th birthday this week, has opened its doors to more than 3,500 families, including some 7,000 children since 1986.



A smile? Nah — surely not. We would have sworn we saw Dallas Cowboys coach Bill Parcells usually after Sunday's win over Carolina. The man with the usually pained expression actually appeared to be enjoying himself again. While there are no guarantees that quarterback Tony Romo will continue to deliver, we hope Coach Parcells finds some fun in the game again. And every once in a while, flash those peppy whites, Coach.

Party of two ... and a dog

Dogs are part of any truly pedestrian-friendly urban landscape. That's why we applaud the city of Dallas' to change policy and officially allow pups on patios at restaurants. We say "official" and restaurants already look the other way. For those who turn up their nose at the scowling dogs, know this: Dallas has strong ordinances in place requiring owners to leash their pets. As long as those rules are enforced, it's time to let the dogs out.

Hot topics

That makes Election Day work, so hats off to those who have helped at polling sites to make sure things run right. And we salute Justin Nichols, SMU student and judge, who signed up two Plano East Senior High teens — Kriston Stout and Zein Irls. The Elections Assistance Commission says the average age for poll workers is 18. He is participating in their 28th congressional election by that age.

Class pulpits

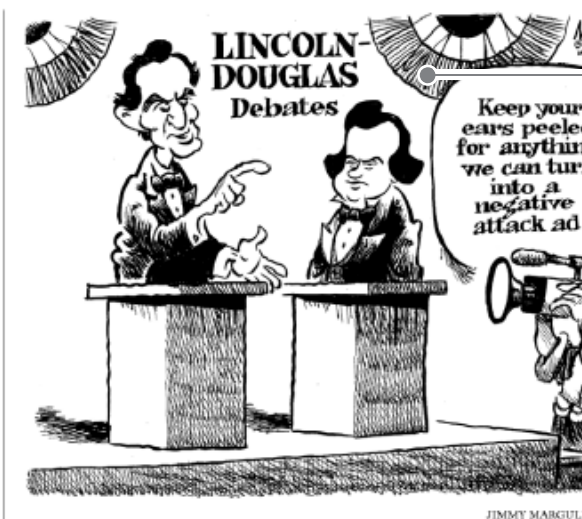
The Rev. Ted Haggard, a Colorado megachurch minister who, as head of the National Association of Evangelicals, is one of the country's most powerful religious leaders, stepped down this week amid lurid allegations that he'd carried on a sexual affair with a male prostitute. Mr. Haggard initially denied the claims, but as of this writing, officials at his church say he has admitted to some of them. However, on Friday his accuser filed a polygraph. Whatever the outcome, the scandal is a tremendous setback for evangelicals. It could derail the campaign to pass a Colorado state constitutional amendment Tuesday defining marriage as solely between a man and a woman.

A red card for taking up the court's time

Wiser heads, or at least headgear, prevailed when the parents of a player on the Highland Park girls' soccer team dropped a federal lawsuit that had accused the team's coach of violating Title IX protections against gender discrimination. So what was the big infraction? The coach of the girls' team had required players to wear protective headgear while the coach of the boys' team didn't. So let's see if we have this right. A coach tries to protect his players from injury and he gets accused of gender discrimination? The best part of this story is that it's over. That worst part is that it made it into court.

Pass the plate?

You'd think the Baptist General Convention of Texas would have noticed that something was amiss when all but a handful of the 288 churches it was backing fled in the Rio Grande Valley either never materialized or weren't open for long. At least the group had the good sense to hire independent investigators to look into the matter. But now the organization must figure out what happened to a big chunk of the \$1.3 million it funneled to border pastors between 1999 and 2005. Stay tuned for more details.



CARTOON

We subscribe to more than a dozen cartoonists nationwide and cull through drawings daily to pick the best.

Political cartoons on the editorial page are generally consistent with the newspaper's views on issues.

Cartoons on the Viewpoints page reflect a variety of perspectives.

LETTERS

"YOU CAN HIT THE SWITCH"

After TXU's overcharge, I'm going shopping
Re: "You Can Hit the Switch — Make energy firms work for your business," Wednesday Editorials.



I made TXU Energy work for me. My current electric bill made me stand up and pay attention, so I had them re-read my meter.

After numerous telephone calls and sending through prompts, I insisted on a re-reading. I was told that if I was wrong, there would be a charge — and, by the way, it would take seven business days to get it done.

Finally, it was confirmed — a "small" incorrect reading. It wasn't small to me, however. It was incorrectly read to the tune of 6,034 kilowatt hours. I can do math. Based on my bill's average price of 14.93 cents per kilowatt hour — *voilà!* — that's \$900.88!

New that's an overcharge. Sit on my kilowatts not one more kilowatt moment! TXU Energy, I'm going shopping!

S.A. Ramsey, Dallas

Where was this editorial when we needed it?

Better late than never, regarding your editorial on the exorbitant electric prices we have paid for the past several months. TXU has raked in hundreds of millions of dollars since the price of natural gas fell.

You may think you have done your civic duty, but where were you when we needed help from TXU?

True, it may have been that the price to beat since the day TXU was right in the middle of

LETTERS

It's an overstatement to describe Letters to the Editor as the heart of vibrant editorial pages, but on many days, they are at least the raw nerve. Get it off your chest.

Letters are your chance, impeded only by our 200-word limit and our editing for clarity, style and accuracy. *The News* receives about 1,000 each week; about 10 percent will see print in our representative sampling.

We love focused letters that make a point with humor, irony or precision. The more short letters we publish, the more of you get your thoughts on our pages. We place a priority on letters that disagree with our editorial positions.

On Saturdays, we survey the week in our "Mailbag" feature.

Write to letterstoeditor@dallasnews.com; Letters From Readers, TDMN, P.O. Box 655237, Dallas, Texas 75265; or, via fax, to 972-263-0456.

Always give us your name, street address, city/state, ZIP code and a daytime number to verify your authorship.

Any caffeine in coffee?

Re: "Beware the Buzz — Parents, are your teens self-medicating?" Tuesday Editorials.

If you're going to bash teenagers for consuming caffeine through energy drinks, you should also look at the amount of caffeine adults consume in a single cup of coffee.

The average 7-ounce cup of coffee contains 80 to 135 milligrams of caffeine; an 8.2-ounce can of Red Bull contains about 80 milligrams. What's the difference?

If you're going to bash caffeine intake, bash it, but at least be consistent in bashing all caffeine consumers.

Michael Dumasoul, senior from DeSoto, Ovella Christian School, Red Oak

Do not call here again

Politicians, if you think for one minute that your intrusive phone calls are going to encourage or sway my vote, you are sadly mistaken.

Have you considered someone might be nursing a newborn, not feeling well, preparing for dinner guests or caring for a mentally challenged family member?

Your two minutes of fame have passed; you wasted my time bad-mouthing your opponent, instead of telling me what you would try to do. Or apologizing for not getting the things done you had promised and saying how you would do it differently if given another opportunity.

Is it any wonder most cities suffer an epidemic of voter apathy?

Sharon Pelevista, Dallas

It's not a hard formula ...

Re: "So why are the jails full?" by Mac Smith, Wednesday Letters. If the police take a case off the street who are committing the crime rate goes down because there are fewer criminals running loose committing crimes.

The police put these perpetrators in jail, the jails fill up. That's what's up with that. It's simple arithmetic.

Jim Hubbard, Whitesboro

... so where's the logic?

Re: "So why are the jails full?" by Mac Smith, Wednesday Letters, and "If we're voting, maybe you shouldn't," by Mike Hashimoto, Monday Viewpoints.

Let's see: jails full, crime down. Oh, my! This letter writer represents the people I hope stay home from voting. The totally ignorant have at least a 50-50 chance of picking the lesser of two evils, but how does one deal with logic like this?

Randy Elkins, Cedar Hill

Who shouldn't vote? You

Re: "If we're voting, maybe you shouldn't," by Mike Hashimoto, Monday Viewpoints.

While I encourage everyone to vote, I agree that some people should not — namely the editorial board of *The Dallas Morning News*.

The board recommended Joe Barton, saying, "We hope he uses his growing influence in Washington to improve his constituents' health," even though his legislative record shows he's not interested in clean energy.

The board picked Pete Sessions, with the wish that he'd demonstrate greater independence from party dogma, even though his voting history shows no such inclination.

Please, board members, if you're going to base your choice on hopes and wishes instead of research, don't vote. It's complicated as Mr. Hashimoto wrote, and what you don't know could hurt me.

Linda Coleman, Dallas

Meaning what he said ...

The liberal media really had to scramble to cover for Sen. John Kerry and his despicable statement about the troops in Iraq. There is no question that he meant what he said. All you have to do is go back to his testimony before Congress to see the disdain he had for the military.

What's sad is that he is speak for the entire Democratic Party. You can clearly see this in other statements from Democrats. If they do not agree, where are the party leaders' responses to him? They seem to be missing in action.

Jack Faith, Garland

THE MAILBAG

Not surprisingly, with a national election bearing down on us, letters related to Tuesday's vote

Technically, the John Kerry "stuck in Iraq" fiasco was not directly related to the Democrats-vs.-Democrats tug-of-war over Congress and various statehouses, but of course it was. Mr. Kerry polled poorly among letter writers, most of whom took him to task for his remarks, although he did have some passionate supporters. Elsewhere, the actual midterms and our governor's race were popular, if well worn, subjects. Next week, we can gauge the reaction to whatever happens Tuesday and what it means.

Letters this week: 925
Hot topics: John Kerry's comments, 109; midterm elections, 76; governor's race, 49.

Mike Hashimoto

you're going to base your choice on hopes and wishes instead of research, don't vote. It's complicated as Mr. Hashimoto wrote, and what you don't know could hurt me.

Linda Coleman, Dallas

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LETTERS & VIEWPOINTS POLICY

We welcome reader submissions. We reserve the right to edit and publish any correspondence. Letters to the Editor are edited for clarity, style and accuracy. Letters to the Editor are edited for clarity, style and accuracy. Letters to the Editor are edited for clarity, style and accuracy.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

ROD DREHER
Assistant editorial page editor, 38



Rod helps select and edit content for Points, the Sunday commentary section, and also writes columns and editorials. A *National Review* alumnus, Rod has a seat on the editorial board's right wing. But as the author of *Crunchy Cons*, a book about neo-traditionalist conservatives with countercultural sensibilities, Rod finds his "faith, family and community" style of conservatism sometimes clashes with the Republican mainstream. He joined *The News* in 2003 and lives in Dallas with his wife and kids. He prides himself on being an avid indoorsman.

E-mail rdreher@dallasnews.com

MIKE HASHIMOTO
Assistant editorial page editor, 48



Everything and nothing about Mike's first 20 years at *The News* prepared him for life on the opinion pages. In nine years with SportsDay and 11 years on the city desk, he had grown accustomed to being the only right-wing nut in a room — with staunch Democrat parents and sisters and typical college (UT-Arlington) and newsroom experiences — so the editorial board offers him a little company. Today, he does some editing, particularly editorial columnist William McKenzie, and writes editorials.

E-mail mhashimoto@dallasnews.com

MACARENA HERNÁNDEZ
Editorial columnist, 32



Macarena has been with the board since 2005. Aside from her weekly column, she writes editorials on immigration, education and social issues. Before joining *The News*, Macarena covered Northern Mexico and South Texas for the *San Antonio Express-News* as its Rio Grande Valley Bureau Chief. She worked for San Francisco-based Latino.com during the height of the dot.com boom. She spent a year teaching English at La Joya High School, where she graduated from in 1992. *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Latina* magazine have published her work.

E-mail mhernandez@dallasnews.com

RODGER JONES
Editorial writer, 56



Texification. That's a process Rodger has enjoyed since arriving from Ohio 21 years ago, just in time for Texas' sesquicentennial. He joined the editorial board in 2004 after a decade as state editor and some years on the Metro desk. A Richardson resident, he focuses on state and local issues, politics especially. He also looks for the chance to comment on what he calls "life's strange and overlooked byproducts." He'll editorialize in whatever form that works best for readers, such as the world's first singing Internet editorial he wrote and performed a couple of years ago.

E-mail rmjones@dallasnews.com

MICHAEL LANDAUER
Assistant editorial page editor, 32



As assistant editorial page editor for suburbs, Michael deals with a lot of community issues, such as, "How many Starbucks should be built at any one intersection?" He also is the mastermind behind such popular reader-interaction features as Teacher Voices, Classroom Voices and Sounding Off, and he was named one of the nation's "20 Under 40" people to watch by *Presstime* magazine, a newspaper trade journal. A graduate of Texas A&M, Michael has worked for *The Morning News* since 1997. He, his wife, Holly, and their dog, Parker, live in the White Rock Lake area.

E-mail mlandauer@dallasnews.com



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COMMUNITY OPINIONS

In addition to the main editorial and op-ed pages, we publish Community Opinions in the Metro section in most of the suburban parts of North Texas. Some of these pages include staff-written editorials on important local issues, but the forum is highly interactive with features such as Sounding Off, a weekly e-mail question of the week that takes the temperature of readers on a variety of issues. The backbone is a collection of 84 "Voices" volunteers, regular folks who write monthly columns for one-year stints. Expansion to other areas is in the works for this year.



POINTS

Points is the Sunday opinion and commentary section of The Dallas Morning News. Like the daily pages, Points features editorials, op-ed columns and the expanded letters section so popular with readers. But Points is also the place to find sharply written, in-depth analysis of current events and trends, as well as eclectic and unconventional takes on issues from the world of politics, ethics and morality, pop culture, foreign affairs, technology, the arts and, most of all, dispatches from the front lines of the culture war. Points aims to be a fun, stylish read for intellectually engaged people.

DALLAS MORNING VIEWS

Editorial board members get warmed up by airing their theories, arguments and peevish on the blog Dallas Morning Views. They often butt heads on subjects that later end up as published editorials. Readers not only can watch the debate unfold — they can join it via e-mail (if they don't mind an occasional pointed retort). The blog is usually good for some lively out of left field as well as links to surprise or stimulating info sources. Check it out at: DallasNews.com/opinion/blog

Stage is too big for Kinky

He's failed to offer substance, says MACARENA HERNANDEZ, and Texans deserve much more

When I first heard Kinky Friedman was jumping into the gubernatorial race, I have to admit, I got excited. Not because I was convinced the Cuban cigar-chomping musician deserved my vote. But in a political scene crowded with @adulter churros, airbrushed candidates, the Kinkster stood out. That easily collected 137,154 signatures — more than double the number required to be on the ballot — told me he had the grassroots: Texans are

WEEKLY COLUMNISTS

Want to know what William McKenzie thinks the state Legislature will accomplish this time around? Or what Macarena Hernandez thinks about the latest flare-up regarding illegal immigration? How Carl Leubsdorf assesses the last two years of the Bush presidency? What Mark Davis plans to do next in his losing fight against smoking bans? Here's their schedule:

Tuesday: William McKenzie
Wednesday: Mark Davis
Thursday: Carl Leubsdorf
Friday: Macarena Hernandez



OBAMA '08
No matter your affiliation, you should root for this rising star to run, says DAVID BROOKS

Barack Obama should run for president. He should run for the good of his party. It would demoralize the Democrats to go through a long primary season with the most exciting figure in the party looming off in the distance like some unapproachable dream. The next Democratic nominee should either be Barack Obama or should have the stature that would come from defeating Barack Obama.

Second, he should run because of his age. Mr. Obama's inexperience is his most obvious shortcoming. Over the next four years, the world could face a genocidal civil war in Iraq, a wave of nuclear proliferation, more Islamic extremism and a demographic revolt against globalization. Do we really want a 40-something in the White House? And yet, in his new book, The Audacity of Hope, Obama makes a strong counterargument. He notes that it's time to move beyond the political style of the baby boom generation. This is a style, he said in an interview this week, that is highly moralistic and personal, dividing people between who is good and who is bad. Mr. Obama has a maturity formed by globalization, not the Students for a Democratic Society. With his multiethnic family and his globe-spanning childhood, there is a little piece of everything in Mr. Obama. He is especially engaged in an internal discussion between different pieces of his hybrid self — Kenya with Harvard, Kansas with the South Side of Chicago — and he takes that conversation outward into the world. "Politics, like science, depends on our ability to persuade each other of common aims based on a common reality," he writes in his book. He distrusts righteous anger and zeal. He does not denigrate his opponents and tells audiences that he does not think George Bush is a bad man. He has a compulsive tendency to see both sides of any issue. Joe Klein of Time.com noted 10 instances of estridently judicious on-the-one-hand-on-the-other-hand formulations in the book. He seems like the guy who spends his first 15 minutes at a restaurant debating the relative merits of fish versus meat. And yet this style is surely the antidote to the politics of the past several years. It is surely true that a president who brings a deliberative style to the White House will multiply his knowledge, not divide it. During our talk, I reminded Mr. Obama that at some level, politics is about power, not conversation. He pointed out that he'd risen from nothing to national prominence in a few years, so he knew something about acquiring

BALANCE OF OPINION

By NANCY KRUIH

Power forecasts

If Dems take control, there'll be big changes — or there won't

Now that the commentary has almost unanimously decided voters likely will hand at least the U.S. House to the Democrats, Harold Meyerson and Bruce Bartlett have created parallel universes imagining what will happen next.

The Democrats have made clear that there's a first tier of legislation they mean to bring to a vote almost immediately after the new Congress convenes. Mr. Meyerson writes in The Washington Post that the minimum Medicare legislation is the most important. It would raise the minimum Medicare age from 65 to 67, and would also raise the retirement age from 62 to 67. It would also raise the retirement age from 62 to 67. It would also raise the retirement age from 62 to 67.

As a longtime Democratic insider, Mr. Bartlett offers a different future for his party. He says that if the Democrats win, they will have to raise the retirement age from 62 to 67. He says that if the Democrats win, they will have to raise the retirement age from 62 to 67.

Both are generated by freelance writer Nancy Kruih, a 25-year veteran of The News and lifelong pundit-phil.

Balance is a twice-weekly digest that covers today's vast commentary landscape — from the left, the right and everything in between.

Vox Pop is a crazy quilt of online opinions and insights gathered from blogs and Web magazines. Topics — and contributors — shift according to the news of the day.

On U.S. population growth
Reaction to the birth this week of the 300 millionth American is ranging from high anxiety to ho-hum.

Unless the United States institutes a serious population policy, from a Harvard professor writes in The Press, our quality of life will collapse into a panoply of congestion, aggruans and stress.

Jonah Goldberg, however, "the most remarkable aspect of this landmark event is how unremarkable it really is."

Whatever problems a booming population may cause, The Los Angeles Times columnist believes we'll get around to fixing it.

Balance of Opinion is a roundup of commentary published in addition to the syndicated columns that regularly appear on Viewpoints. Columns that The Dallas Morning News has the rights to are posted in their entirety at www.dallasnews.com/opinion. Links to the other columns also appear at the site. Nancy Kruih is a freelance writer in Dallas; her e-mail address is nancyrkruh@netnet.net.

SYNDICATED & GUEST COLUMNS

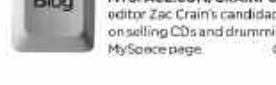
You're probably familiar with many syndicated columnists — Eugene Robinson of The Washington Post, David Brooks from The New York Times, Leonard Pitts at The Miami Herald and Kathleen Parker with the Orlando Sentinel. We review about 300 columns a day and pick from the best, with an eye toward rotating among favorites.

Also on the page are those occasional writers — national and local voices moved to submit columns on a particular topic.

Macarena Hernandez is a Dallas Morning News editorial columnist. Her e-mail address is macarena@dalldallasnews.com.



Colleen McCain Nelson is a Dallas Morning News editorial writer. Her e-mail address is colleen@dalldallasnews.com.



JOIN THE DEBATE: DALLASNEWS.COM/OPINION/BLOG

THE WAR IN IRAQ: It's said 95 percent of Iraq's violence is within a 30-mile radius of Baghdad. If we can somehow secure the capital, maybe we can't the situation away from an all-out civil war. I think the situation is a mess, just not necessarily a mess everywhere. Concentration on Baghdad could increase the odds of developing some kind of stability. William McKenzie

SHARON GRIGSBY

Deputy editorial page editor, 50



She's worked in most every nook of The News since 1980 — including as Metro editor, political editor, national editor, features editor and city assignments editor. Translation: Sharon knows just enough about any subject to be dangerous. She joined Editorial in 2004, overseeing the department's day-to-day operations. Favorite columnists: James Lileks and Kathleen Parker. Proudest innovation: publishing bloggers on Viewpoints long before most papers were taking them seriously. Sharon's worked in New York and Detroit, but is a native Texan, which you figure out the first time she tells you she graduated from BAAAYlor. She is blessed with two inquisitive teenage sons, both of whom love to argue politics or literature until the wee hours. Oh, in her spare time — just before dawn — she's a distance runner.

E-mail sgrigsby@dallasnews.com

COLLEEN McCAIN NELSON

Editorial writer, 32



Politics is a passion for Colleen, who covered local, state and national campaigns before joining the editorial board in May. She criss-crossed the country with John Kerry and George W. Bush in 2004 and spent a few years at Dallas City Hall. She's still writing about city government and has added air quality to her areas of expertise. She also has plenty to say about pop culture and sports. A graduate of the University of Kansas, Colleen is crazed about KU basketball. She and her husband are raising a dog named Phog and are perpetually training for their next marathon.

E-mail cmccain@dallasnews.com

WILLIAM MCKENZIE

Editorial columnist, 52



Bill has divided his career between Washington and his native Texas. The University of Texas grad worked for 1980 presidential candidate John Anderson and then spent 10 wild years editing the Ripon Forum. He found himself worrying about budgets one minute, the next interviewing political bigwigs. Texas drew Bill back in 1991 to join The News editorial board, where he writes editorials and a weekly column. He specializes in George W. Bush, religion and all things Texas. He's married to a fellow writer with whom he shares energetic twins.

E-mail wmckenzie@dallasnews.com

JIM MITCHELL

Editorial writer, 52

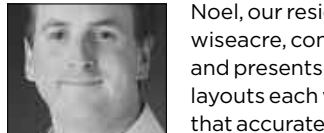


Jim has been with The News since 1984, joining the editorial board in 1998. His specialty is business and economics, but he's been known to craft editorials on topics as diverse as the Wright amendment battle, emerging technologies, international AIDS policy, city politics and cultural and societal shifts. Jim graduated from Loyola University, earned a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University, and attended business and economics workshops. Meeting Nelson Mandela in South Africa was his most unforgettable career moment.

E-mail jmitchell@dallasnews.com

G. NOEL GROSS

Senior designer, 34



Noel, our resident wiseacre, conceives and presents 18 layouts each week that accurately and attractively reflect our content — such as today's two-page "Behind the Opinions" feature. Noel's new to political punditry having spent most of his 10 years with The News covering arts and entertainment. (We swore election years were a lot like Oscar season.) His all-time favorite films are It's a Wonderful Life and The Texas Chainsaw Massacre. The seventh-generation Longviewite and father of five — two dachshunds and three cats — now lives in South Grand Prairie with bride Bonnie.

E-mail ngross@dallasnews.com

NICOLE STOCKDALE

Presentation editor, 29



Despite being the lone 20-something on the board, Nicole assures you that she doesn't get all her news from The Daily Show; she watches The Colbert Report too. She works with Noel, Sharon and the art departments to bring energy to our content and visuals. Growing up in Kansas, she was once sent to school in an elephant sweater with the instructions, "Say you're a Young Republican" — but she's found more balance since. She joined the editorial board in October after seven years as a copy editor. She's an avid blogger; her blog on copy editing has tens of tens of readers. (Hey, it is about copy editing.)

E-mail nstockdale@dallasnews.com



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