The Dallas Morning News

dallasnews.com

Community opinions

In addition to the main editorial and op-ed pages, we publish Community Opinions in the Metro section. 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 82 Voices volunteers, regular folks who write monthly columns for one-year stints. Find out more by reading Sunday's page inside your Metro section.

68 S.mm. Art 12 200 S Community opinions A forum for medders in Dellas County SOUNDING OFF Step-parenting can work has been work, great honor, says Susan Sanders Wa Are Google Maps nore friend or foe?

Opinion on the web

dallasnews.com/opinion

Wouldn't it be great if there were a single Web page that collected that top-shelf opinion journalism and posted links to, say, the top dozen or more best reads each day? Wouldn't it be great if this site identified The Big Story each day and linked to several smart perspectives on that story, irrespective of source or format, to give you a succinct picture of the range of debate? Well, dear reader, that site exists, produced by members of your very own Dallas Morning News editorial board. In addition to The Big Story, our new Opinion front page links you to another half-dozen or more Must-Reads from the Web about a wide variety of hot topics, with special emphasis on Texas and Dallas-Fort Worth. Try it once, and we believe it will become a well-worn bookmark in your browser. dallasnews.com/opinion.

Monday, January 4, 2010



BLOGS

VIEWPOINTS

Editorial board members get warmed up by airing their theories, arguments and peeves on six dallasnews.com blogs. They often butt heads on subjects ranging from transportation to energy, and those discussion can later end up as published editorials. Readers can watch the debate unfold and even join the conversation at dallasnews.com/opinion/blogs.

SYNDICATED & GUEST COLUMNS

Syndicated columnists are those writers whose expertise has won them the opportunity to be published in multiple newspapers nationwide - for instance, Charles Krauthammer of *The Washington* Post, Leonard Pitts at The Miami Herald, Kathleen Parker with The Post Writers Group. We pick from the best each day, with an eye toward rotating among readers' favorites.

Also published are those "guest columnists," including advocates, experts or just regular readers who are moved to submit columns on a local, state or global topic.

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Viewpoints Page

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hy is it called the op-ed page? Because it appears opposite the *ed*itorial page. We call our op-ed page Viewpoints, but consider it a virtual public square. It's a meeting place of provocative, diverse ideas, particularly ideas and voices other than our own. Like the Editorial page, everything on Viewpoints is, by definition, opinionated.

Making the picks for this page is tough. We review about 300 manuscripts of all political and cultural stripes daily. That includes work by our staff writers, nationally syndicated columnists and writers who are making names for themselves online. We also publish the opinions of people who can write with authority on whatever's at the top of the issues heap. Some of those writers contact us; other times we seek their expertise. Sometimes we offer excerpts from speeches, blogs or new books. Occasionally we present opinion in the form of graphics and photos.

Increasingly, Viewpoints is seeking out local voices, particularly on hotly disputed North Texas issues. Some are well-known names in the community. Some of the best writing comes from "just plain folks."

Among the issues debated during the last year on this page: Is Dallas' "clean air" plan failing? What kind of rules do local dog parks require? Could a local transit option vote link up with southern Dallas development needs? and Do we have a Latino leadership void?

Our thinking is that the greater diversity of opinion that we print in Viewpoints and in Letters, the more well informed our editorials will be.

Editor Sharon Grigsby makes the selections for this page and in the past

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POINTS

diverted attention away

Points is the Sunday opinion and analysis 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.

WEEKLY COLUMNISTS

A columnist's byline matters, and ours have their bent-screw topics, about which they can write with style and stamina.

Here's their schedule:

Tuesdav: William McKenzie Wednesday: Mark Davis Everv other Thursday:

Carl Leubsdorf

or 75 minutes on Thursday, George We got to see an old, familiar George Bush W. Bush sat in a crime-and-blac high-backed chair in the Oval during our interview, says William McKenzie. Where has that man been the last eight years? Gillman and Lori Stahl, and I put to him hiportisanship to Texas politics to his new

He gestured with his hands, cast aside with his eyes, relaxed in his chair and esplained his views with the same manner he did while a popular governor of Texas Even down to the same kind of black leafers, he was the gay many Texans saw in Austin. Our give-and-take went far past the scheduled 45 minutes, as he twice waved off aides to keep it going. is to had years before, to usually not assessers that would shock these wh the long sature of hin asous for his activ visual offere

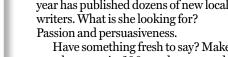
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Office, answering questions that ny Duffice Morning News colleagues, Todd

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Have something fresh to say? Make your best case in 600 words or so, and send it to **viewpoints**@

dallasnews.com.

Meet you here tomorrow for the latest debate.

SHARON GRIGSBY

Deputy editorial page editor, 53



Sharon oversees the day-to-day operations of Editorial and leads the department's sustained crusade

"Bridging Dallas' North-South Gap," begun in 2007 to advocate for the southern half of the city and narrow the opportunity gaps between it and the north. Sharon joined the DMN newsroom as an editor in 1980 after graduating from Baylor and working in New York and Detroit. She and her husband, also a DMN journalist, are the parents of two sons, one at UT-Austin and the other at Kansas. Sharon closed out the "oughts" by successfully completing her first marathon in Dallas last month and is already eager to register for the Chicago race.

E-mail sgrigsby@dallasnews.com

JIM MITCHELL Editorial writer, 55



The News since 1984, joining the editorial board in 1998. His specialty is

Jim has been with

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

TOD ROBBERSON Editorial writer, 52

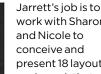


issues, having spent a quarter-century as a correspondent and editor covering

Latin America, the Middle East, Asia and Europe. He likes fixing things and finding creative solutions to persistent problems, whether it's peace in Irag or a leaky water pipe over the bathroom sink. He's an avid tennis player. His wife. a theater director, and 14-year-old actress daughter keep him busy on the Dallas stage scene. Tod's favorite novel is Ken Kesev's Sometimes a Great Notion, about a tough Oregon logging family that overcomes adversity and refuses to "give a inch."

E-mail trobberson@dallasnews.com

JARRETT RUSH Presentation Editor, 36



present 18 layouts each week that

accurately and attractively reflect our content. Jarrett is a child of Belo. After college he joined the staff at the Arlington Morning News, then moved to the news desk at the big newspaper downtown. He finally found the perfect girl, Gina, who loves baseball and can tolerate his devotion to the sport, the Kansas City Royals and George Brett. She's a teacher in Mesquite. Though their hearts remain in downtown, they recently moved to Garland after buying their first home.

E-mail jrush@dallasnews.com

NICOLE STOCKDALE Assistant editorial page editor, 32



of the board, Nicole assures you that she doesn't get all her news from The Daily

Despite being the

youngest member

Show: she watches The Colbert Report, too. She selects and edits the content for Points, the Sunday commentary section, and also works with Jarrett and Sharon 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, "Tell your teacher you're a Young Republican" — but she's inched to the left. She joined the editorial board in 2006 after seven years as a copy editor.

E-mail nstockdale@dallasnews.com

BETSY SIMNACHER Content Coordinator, 58



A former iournalism instructor, married to Metro reporter Joe Simnacher and the mother of two sons, Betsy is the

copy editor and page designer for the Community Opinions pages and the Letters.

BONNIE BISHOP Assistant to the editor, 50



Bonnie is vour first contact when you call our department. She's curious about life. spirituality and people. In 2010 she

celebrates 25 years with the News. She is the proud parent of two curious young adults.





work with Sharon