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**JEA.ORG**





# Politics

## A quintessential niche for journalists

A campaign with two major presidential candidates, Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama, attracts massive media attention. Others — among them: Cynthia McKinney, Green Party; Chuck Baldwin, Constitution Party; Bob Barr, Libertarian Party; and Ralph Nader, independent — also make their voices heard. In addition, some states have senatorial and gubernatorial contests, and all 435 districts have elections for the United States House of Representatives. **For journalists, elections translate to endless opportunities.** Value them. Develop them. Model them.

The opportunity repeats every four years — how perfect for every high-school newspaper and yearbook. **The election pattern guarantees every teenager a chance to inspect the political process.**

One vs. One — that is the clear prototype, as seen in the Democratic presidential primary, especially when the race narrowed to Sen. Hillary Clinton vs. Sen. Barack Obama. As coverage of the prototype illustrates, **enterprise of both reporters and photographers is essential** to present readers/viewers the coverage they deserve.

The best preparation is to let both pros and peers, from throughout the United States, instruct students via their experiences. **Help the staff discover the importance of tenacity, determination, enthusiasm and involvement** — personal qualities that depend neither on the size of the high school nor on the budget of the publication. Every high-school reporter and photographer has an equal opportunity to initiate careful planning to produce mind-challenging results.

Vote for teenagers. Elect coverage and informed citizens. Uphold accuracy and fairness. **Participate in democracy as part of the historic Fourth Estate.**

—Howard Spanogle



# Tenacity

Ina Herlihy of San Francisco shares her how-to, which has already taken her miles during her freshman and sophomore years. What's ahead for her? "Great expectations," says her adviser Tracy Anne Sena.

Attending the activities surrounding the inauguration of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi in January 2007 with teachers and classmates was my first time taking photographs with the professional press. With credentials hanging around our necks, the pros took fellow photographer Rena Hunt and me under their wings in the press area within minutes of joining them, graciously offering to let us try out some of their own lenses on our cameras.

Stepping outside the press ropes, I found myself interviewing Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md. I handed her a prewritten thank you card with my e-mail address, phone and fax numbers and school address. A few weeks later, I received a letter from her with researched info to back up what she had been telling me during our conversation.

Attending the events in Washington, D.C., made me realize politicians are really the same as we are so I grew in confidence and my ambition was awakened. As candidates entered the presidential race during the following months, I submitted my e-mail address and cell phone number to their campaigns to get in the loop with their events. After bookmarking their Web sites, I visited them daily to track travel itineraries, rallies and events.

When I learned about Illinois Sen. Barack Obama's Democratic rally in Oakland, Calif., in March 2007, I immediately signed up online for a general admission ticket — it didn't even cross my mind to request press credentials. Upon arriving, I coincidentally walked by the press stand while heading to the public entrance line a few blocks long. I had a long

lens around my neck so I went right up to the woman in charge and politely asked for credentials, showing her a copy of my press badge from Pelosi's inauguration to verify my credibility.

She took me to her boss to ask permission, who ultimately said something along the lines of, "Oh, you're so cute, of course." I was the youngest member of the press that day by decades, and yet I did not let myself become intimidated.

I took a spot on the floor between two chairs — a spot too small for anyone else — and positioned myself looking dead center at the stage.

At the end of my freshmen year, my journalism teacher gave me a stack of business cards. I always have some in my possession because I am only given a moment's notice for some of the events I have attended, such as when I met former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright the first time.

When I met Obama, I was walking around New York City with my family when I noticed multiple news vans and heavy security surrounding a building. I went up to a security guard to inquire about the event and then asked for a press pass at the press stand while making small talk with the woman in charge. She said she was letting me through because I had the "sheer guts" to ask.

At the end of the event I pushed through the crowd. When Obama passed by, I put my hand up with my business card. He took it and placed it in his pocket, and we conversed for a few moments.

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By a combination of keeping my eyes open and being in the right place at the right time, I have found myself chatting with Speaker Nancy Pelosi at Borders bookstore while we were both Christmas shopping, photographing presidential hopeful Rudy Giuliani at a Mel's Drive-In and attending a private, closed press fundraiser for Gov. Mike Huckabee, R-Ark., where I interviewed him and took pictures.

More deliberately during the past two years, I have photographed or interviewed Sens. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y.; Diane Feinstein, D-Calif. and John Kerry, D-Mass.; Reps. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif. and Jackie Spear, D-Calif.; Gov. Mitt Romney, R-Mass.; environmentalist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Warren Buffet, businessman and philanthropist.

During the JEA/NSPA convention in Philadelphia last year, Rep. Ron Paul was hosting a presidential campaign rally a few blocks away from the hotel so I went to take photographs. Upon arriving on location, I could not find a press secretary so I climbed up into the assigned press area.

Within minutes someone from Paul's campaign politely told me I would not be allowed on the press platform so I hopped off. As it turned out, I ended up being closer to Paul than the press remaining in the designated area. ■

**INA HERLIHY**, news editor, *The Broadview*  
Convent of the Sacred Heart High School (San Francisco, Calif.; Tracy Anne Sena, adviser)

## COMPETE FOR SUCCESS

- Set up press privileges before you go out on a shoot. Call the press office and let them know you want to be on the approved press list.
- Find the press table when you arrive. For big events there will often be a separate press entrance. Smart move: Ask where the press entrance is when you call ahead.
- Carry ID, preferably government issued, such as a driver's license. If you are covering a political candidate, your student ID may not get you in.
- Walk carefully and lightly on the press dais or in the press area. Any movement on a platform will disturb video cameras — and still photographers will not be too thrilled having their shots disrupted.
- Ask pertinent questions. If you are uncertain about the protocol, ask the pros. They will more than likely give you the lay of the land and offer tips.
- Arrive ready to work. As friendly as everyone may be, journalists in the press area are "at the office." Reporters are probably already prewriting their stories or doing other work so they will not welcome excessive interruptions. Avoid moving in and out of your seat. Keep all your belongings together and do not use your cell phone unless it is an emergency.

# Inside

The political beat is a valuable prize on metropolitan newspapers. And in a presidential election year, reporters on that beat work overtime to find stories that do more than simply report the sound bites from the latest staged press event. Veteran reporters Rob Christensen of the *Raleigh News & Observer* and W. Gardner Selby of the *Austin American-Statesman* reveal their approaches to the political beat.

## 1. WHY WOULD SOMEONE WANT TO COVER POLITICS/POLITICIANS ROUTINELY?

*Christensen:* Politics is part of the grand experiment of free people governing themselves. This is how a free society makes decisions — about which roads to pave, how big an Army we should have, how we should take care of the elderly, how do we pay for medical costs, how do we protect our society from criminals, how do we educate our young people. This is the stuff of politics.

*Selby:* Politicians and/or officeholders essentially control how government spends tax dollars. Some do so wisely. Journalists would want to cover these characters if they either care about the beliefs of the characters, their roots and goals, or specifically how they're intending to spend tax dollars and why. Sometimes the best stories are told by politicians/officeholders — sometimes the best unintentional jokes too. Politics is the richest provider of unguarded moments, even better than professional sports.

## 2. WHAT IS THE SINGLE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN COVERING POLITICS/POLITICIANS ROUTINELY?

*Christensen:* Politics has become very professionalized, especially at the level that I cover, such as president, governor and the U.S. Senate. Candidates hire people to create a certain image. And then the candidates often say as little as possible so as not to offend any voters. The biggest challenge in political reporting is to get beyond the spin and the mask to find out who these people are and what they really believe.

*Selby:* P/Os, as we call them, aren't always forthcoming about what they're doing or why. It takes time (maybe years) to get a handle on when a politician/officeholder is candid and when they're not.

## 3. WHAT'S ONE STORY THAT YOU'VE COVERED IN THE POLITICAL ARENA THAT STICKS OUT IN YOUR MIND? WHAT MAKES IT STAND OUT?

*Christensen:* There is no one story. Most recently I have covered Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, John Edwards and John McCain. Certainly the career of Jesse Helms has been memorable. In 1984, I was thrown out of the state Republican convention — by resolution — by Helms' lieutenants. As I was being led out of the Raleigh Civic Center before a cheering crowd, the presiding officer intoned, "The cancer has been surgically removed."

*Selby:* As a pup reporter, I was handed the task of attending then-Texas Gov. Bill Clements victory party in Austin in November 1982. Slight problem: He lost re-election to Mark White. The routine became more interesting because of the loss. I watched for signs of dismay, anything to make readers feel like they were in the hotel ballroom with me. To be sure, Clements roared back four years later, unseating White, whose own comeback fell short in 1990. Message: Loss is almost always a better story than victory — or maybe that's a sign of my own weaknesses.

## 4. OFTEN IT SEEMS THAT POLITICIANS HAVE "STOCK ANSWER" TO QUESTIONS, AND SOMETIMES THEY SIMPLY EVADE QUESTIONS. HOW DO YOU GET THEM TO ANSWER THE QUESTION YOU'VE ASKED?

*Christensen:* The best way to get a good answer from politicians is to go into an interview well prepared. If they provide an answer that is not consistent with what they have said in the past, you can point it out.

*Selby:* By repeating the question, sometimes reminding the P/Os that they didn't answer it the first round. If that doesn't work, let readers know the question was asked and not answered. To be fair, politicians/officeholders aren't required to fill in the blank on any question. As reporters, though, we have the right to let readers know when a



**ROB CHRISTENSEN** has been writing about North Carolina politics as a reporter and a columnist for 35 years at *The News and Observer*.

He has contributed to three books on North Carolina or Southern politics. In April, his first solo book, *The Paradox of Tar Heel Politics: The Personalities, Elections and Events that Shaped Modern North Carolina*, was published by the University of North Carolina Press.



**W. GARDNER SELBY**, chief political writer for the *Austin American-Statesman*, has covered Texas politics off and on since the early 1980s. Before he had worked as a reporter for the *Beaumont Enterprise*, *Madison (Wisc.) Capital Times*, *Wichita (Kan.) Eagle Beacon*, *Dallas Times-Herald*, *The Houston Post* and *San Antonio Express-News*.

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dodge appears to have happened. CRUCIAL: Make sure you asked exactly the question you wanted answered. A way to check: Take a tape recorder on every interview. Use it.

**5. FORMER SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE TIP O'NEILL ONCE SAID ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL. HOW DOES THIS INFLUENCE HOW YOU COVER POLITICS/POLITICIANS?**

*Christensen:* Tip O'Neill was right. All politics is local. So we at *The News & Observer* pay more attention to local politicians, such as John Edwards' presidential run. And we also focus on issues important to the state, such as military bases, hog waste, tobacco, etc.

*Selby:* It's essential to know a politician's/officeholder's roots and core philosophies/issues. Start every project having a sense of these basics so that you can catch signs of those roots in each story you write on the P/O at issue.

**6. SHOULD REPORTERS SPEND MORE TIME COVERING ISSUES RATHER THAN EVENTS OR POLITICIANS? WHAT ARE THE PROS AND CONS TO THIS APPROACH?**

*Christensen:* *The News & Observer* has, over the last 15 years, shifted to far more coverage of issues so we do few stories about what the candidates say on the campaign trail.

*Selby:* Reporters should understand issues and interweave them with stories on events or politicians/officeholders. Pure issue stories go unread, I suspect, partly because the authors bore themselves writing them. I sense that personality-type profiles get read more, but there's no excuse for such a story lacking rich issue references. NOTE: It takes time to learn issues. Allow yourself the opportunity.

**7. THIS FALL THE NATIONAL ELECTION WILL IMPACT EVERYONE IN THE UNITED STATES AND, INDEED, THE WORLD. HOW CAN STUDENTS LOCALIZE THIS NATIONAL ELECTION?**

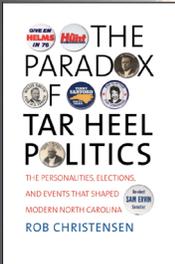
*Christensen:* North Carolina will be in play this fall for the first time in years so we will have a rare opportunity to see a lively fall campaign here — with TV ads, campaign offices and the candidates themselves. This has not happened since the 1992 election between the first President Bush and Bill Clinton.

*Selby:* National issues slap us across the face constantly — latest example: price of gas at the pump. Write from what you see right in front of you.

**8. IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR STUDENTS CONSIDERING BEING POLITICAL REPORTERS, WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE?**

*Christensen:* If you enjoy politics, there is no better job. But you can't approach it like a partisan. You must do your best to be fair to both Democrats and Republicans. In fact, I do not even vote in elections that I cover as a way to help maintain my neutrality. But in return you get a front row seat to history.

*Selby:* Consider working in a political campaign or two. Get a taste of what politics is like from the inside. Otherwise, concentrate on understanding the P/Os in your own world, perhaps starting with student leaders who will be chasing public offices of all kinds before you know it. Study political history, the men and women who have guided the planet. If it bores you, consider another profession. Ultimately, no matter what your assigned beat, politics runs through it. ■



"The well-told story of North Carolina's 20th-century political dynasties forged by patronage, cronyism, kickbacks, fraud, character assassination and the high art of stealing elections honorably.... Christensen succeeds where most political historians fail; he makes the story interesting.... A must-read for all who value insight into the realities of winning campaigns and governing in a democracy."

JOHN N. DAVIS, *The News and Observer*

Smoke Signals, Choctaw High School, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. (Linda Evanchyk, adviser)

**LOCALNEWS**

**2.14.08**

**Republicans campaign on the Gulf Coast**

BY AMANDA SULLIVAN  
Editor-in-Chief

Some say that the Panhandle of Florida is what won President Bush the White House, it seems that some republican candidates are taking that into consideration as they haul their entire campaigns down south.

Rudy Giuliani, former mayor of New York, was the first campaigner on the scene. He made his from Pensacola to South Florida, stopping in at Begal Heads in Pensacola, Magnolia Grill in Fort Walton Beach, and The Doughnut Hole in Destin.

He stressed his pro-war in Iraq position, which gained him a great amount of support in our militarily dominated community. His goal is to keep America on the offense against the Islamic Terrorist War. America should be prepared for anything and in order to do this, the size of our military needs to be increased.

He also promoted his one page tax form. His tax plan along with the tax cuts he proposed enable citizens to file their taxes on a single page.

Giuliani also supports energy depend-

ency and the ending of illegal immigration.

"Running America takes leadership and if I can do it for New York I can do it for our country."

On Tues., Jan. 22, a large crowd of local John McCain supporters gathered at the Emerald Coast Conference Center.

As his huge slogan covered campaign RV rolled in the anticipation of the crowd diminished and excitement took its place.

McCain, like Giuliani addressed his position on the War in Iraq. Having a military background creates a competent image for McCain. He has knowledge and insight that none of the other presidential candidates have. He fully intends on continuing the war and eventually emerge successful. In order to be successful the size of our military needs to be increased as well as the size and competency of the Iraq government.

Congress, over the past eight to ten years, has increased the amount of earmarks that are placed on appropriation bills. "Earmarked dollars have doubled just since 2000, and more than tripled in the last 10 years. This explosion in earmarks led one lobbyist to deride the appropriations committees as favor factories. The time for us to fix this broken process is long overdue."

McCain's policy on taxes are clear and straightforward. "they should be low, simple, and fair." He has plans to greatly cut taxes for the middle class by eliminating the Alternative Minimum Tax.

Once he lowers taxes, his plan will make it much harder for them to be raised.

Like many of his fellow republicans he also supports energy diversity and independence, as well as closing the border to illegal immigrants.

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Senator John McCain filled the Emerald Coast Conference Center, along with many other venues when he campaigned in Florida.

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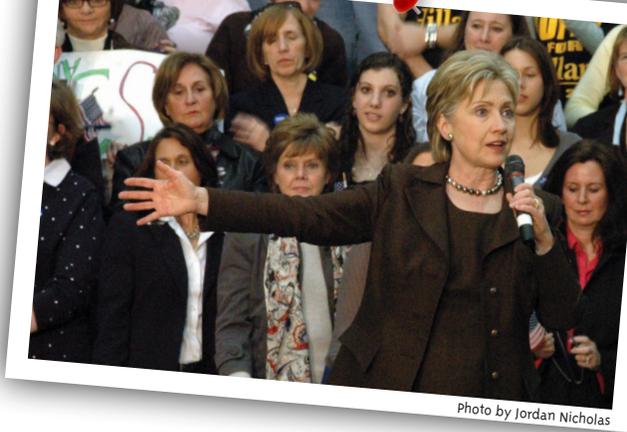


Photo by Jordan Nicholas

# Enthusiasm

After receiving press credentials for a Hillary Clinton rally in nearby Scranton, Pa. on March 10, reporter Jeff Shucosky and photographer Jordan Nicholas from Wyoming Valley West High School, Plymouth, Pa. covered the candidate's speech in the town where her father is buried. There Clinton spoke about her local roots during a rally at Scranton High School.

“Covering Hillary Clinton’s visit to Scranton High School gave me a first-hand experience in the world of professional journalism,” Shucosky said. “I was floored by the number of major media outlets attending the rally in what I always considered to be a small city. Furthermore, I was impressed and amazed by the intensity of these journalists as they jockeyed for position to capture the best photo and story they could.”

Nicholas was also impressed with the event.

“Covering the Hillary rally showed me how real-world politics and real-world journalism work. Being able to fight for a camera position was something I’ll never forget,” he said. “And to get advice from photographers from top newspapers from around the world really gave me confidence and has given me an upper hand in my journalism class.”

The two students did not take any part of the process for granted. They enjoyed receiving their press passes — and even being cleared by security.

“Once I cleared security I was given a briefing and received my press pass. I was given permission to go behind the scenes where other people only dream of going,” Nicholas said. “For the other journalists, this was no big deal. But I felt on top of the world.”

Before the rally, the students had made arrangements with a local newspaper (*The*

*Times Leader*) to have their works published in the next day’s edition. They were instructed to provide 10 inches with a perspective about what young people thought of the rally. Both students were excited to work with the short deadline. The event ended about 6 p.m., and the students had to deliver their work to the newspaper by 9 p.m.

Caught in the mass exodus as they left the event, Shucosky drafted his article in the car as Nicholas weaved his way through traffic.

“The rally itself was exciting, but what was even better was arriving home and writing an article in less than an hour,” Shucosky said. “Seeing my byline in the next day’s newspaper that was delivered to thousands of subscribers capped off a perfect experience.”

Nicholas had a similar reaction. “The morning after the rally I awoke to find one of my pictures had been published. It was a great feeling,” he said.

Prior to the event, Shucosky had not planned to register to vote. He was somewhat distrustful of the process, but after the rally, he phoned his journalism teacher to say, “This was so exciting. I am definitely going to register to vote. I want to be involved in the process.” ■

**LESLIE NICHOLAS**, adviser, Wyoming Valley West High School, Plymouth, Pa.







# Involvement

The bright lights and big stars, ranging from Chelsea Clinton to Martin Luther King, III, surrounded us on every side. I was elbowing the guy from *Time* to my left and the guy from the *New York Times*, with his telescopic lens, to my right for a good shot. The three titans — Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and John Edwards — came out, and the stage lit up with flashes with the sound of shutters making me feel as though I was with an artillery battalion shooting machine guns in Iraq.

**W**hen we were told to cease fire, we fought gallantly for the few remaining shots. I left feeling proud and dignified, like a soldier who helped win the decisive battle in the war. I got my picture. But before I put my lens cap back on, I made sure to get a “high five” from Dave Chappelle, the popular comedian.

Through ambition in journalism, at the state, local and national levels, I was afforded the opportunity to cover the 2008 Democratic Presidential Primary Debate, sponsored by CNN and the Congressional Black Caucus in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Now let’s rewind. I never even wanted to get into journalism.

After an accidental introduction to journalism my freshman year in Pennsylvania, I decided to continue the course for its boost to my GPA, but it was in my sophomore year when I began to love this field. I was promoted from assistant news editor to news editor and later to editor. I had become the youngest EIC in my school’s history.

My comfort zone on that staff was put in the blender when my parents decided to move to South Carolina. I compiled my clippings and was put on my new high school’s staff as managing editor. Now, as a senior, I am the editor-in-chief of my new high school’s paper.

However, my adviser, Martha Herring, knew there was more for me to do. I’ll never forget the first time we sat down and she said, “Tony you’re going to major in journalism.” It was at a similar setting where she told me that I should get a job with a local paper.

I made my phone calls, and the publisher of the *Horry Independent* wanted an interview. He said the open spot had been filled, but that there was a special project he wanted me to start on, *The Carolina Forest Chronicle*. *The Chronicle*, now the largest weekly paper in

Horry County, distributes about 20,000 free copies in addition to paid subscriptions.

I started writing articles for them at the birth of the paper in November 2007. Since then, I feel as though I somehow am rejuvenating the dying animal that I hold so dearly to my heart — the printed press.

During the last five months on staff, I have covered bomb threats at Wal-Mart, new business openings, a Little League baseball team of 10-year-olds, ranked the best in the nation with pitchers who throw 60 mph, and other happenings in the community.

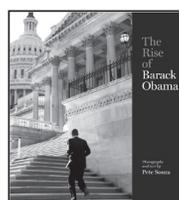
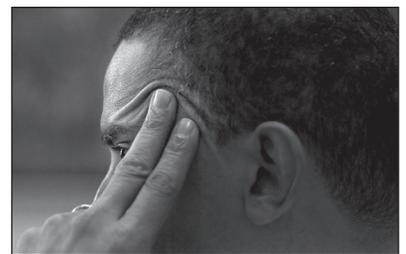
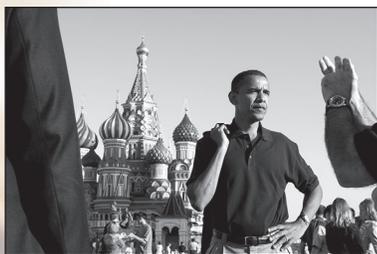
None of these stories, however, compares to coverage of the Democratic Debate. It was a night that I was able to cover the passion I’ve had since I was 7 and decided to write to then President Clinton. Now I cover politics.

After grabbing the pictures of the candidates in the debate hall and roughing it up with the guys from *Time* and *The New York Times*, the night still wasn’t over. After watching the debate on large flat-screen televisions in Phillips Seafood Restaurant, the traveling press pool went back to the debate hall to the spin room. There, I interviewed three U.S. senators, two members of the U.S. House of Representatives and a few others.

Journalism has empowered me far beyond my wildest dreams. In addition to informing the public, I open the world to my readers. I have the confidence to succeed. With SIPA, I have the ability to mold and to perfect the skills and talents of young journalists in 13 states. I have a love that has given me everything. This experience has changed my life. I have journalism. ■

**ANTHONY MILLER**, editor-in-chief, *The Prowler*  
Carolina Forest High School, Myrtle Beach, S.C.  
(Martha Herring, adviser)





Pete Souza was working on staff at the *Chicago Tribune* in 2005 when the photojournalist began documenting Barack Obama's first term in the U.S. Senate. Three years later, after signing a book contract with Triumph Books in April, Souza had only four weeks to get *The Rise of Barack Obama* edited, designed, checked and printed.

"The book is basically a visual documentation of the rise of his national career," Souza told Katie Fretland in an interview for the *Chicago Tribune's* Web site.

The book, an insightful, behind-the-scenes look at the candidate, is available online and at bookstores.

# The Rise

Photographers, like reporters, face challenges when covering politicians, not the least of which is access to the candidates and officeholders or the staged photo-op. “I love photographing politicians,” photographer Jesse Kalisher said. “They are dynamic folks, full of energy. More than that, every nuance has the chance to tell a story. And that’s ideally what I’m after — a gesture, a glance, something which helps tell a broader story of a politician’s life.”

## 1. WHY WOULD JOURNALISTS WANT TO COVER POLITICS/POLITICIANS ROUTINELY?

*Souza:* These are men and women who make many of the decisions that affect our lives. I would encourage students to not necessarily just photograph national politicians but to start documenting their own local politicians. Often the access is better, and no one else is covering these politicians. I’d also urge them to not rely on just the politician’s public events but to strive to document their lives away from the podium.

## 2. WHAT IS THE SINGLE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN PHOTOGRAPHING POLITICS/POLITICIANS ROUTINELY?

*Souza:* The biggest challenge is getting access other than the routine fabricated “photo ops.”

## 3. WHAT’S ONE PERSON OR EVENT THAT YOU’VE COVERED IN THE POLITICAL ARENA THAT STICKS OUT IN YOUR MIND? WHAT MAKES IT STAND OUT?

*Souza:* I’ve had the opportunity to document both President Reagan and Sen. Obama quite extensively. For Reagan, I did it as an insider; that is, I worked for the White House as an Official White House Photographer. So I got to see him up close and in numerous situations that weren’t open to any other photographers.

When I began photographing Barack Obama in early 2005, I worked really hard to establish access with him since he was my “local” senator — at the time I was working for the *Chicago Tribune*. Now those pictures I took of him in 2005 and 2006 that no one else has, have become valuable, maybe historic, and have resulted in my book, *The Rise of Barack Obama*.

## 4. IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR STUDENTS CONSIDERING BEING A PHOTOGRAPHER ON A POLITICAL BEAT, WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE?

*Souza:* Learn issues. Learn how to deal with people. Learn to accept “no” a lot, but don’t give up. ■

“As a photo subject, Obama was a natural. He didn’t have any overt camera awareness and went about his business as I went about mine. The way he interacted with his kids was very genuine. I tried to blend in and not be a nuisance, . . .”

### PETE SOUZA



**PETE SOUZA** is a freelance photographer and assistant professor of photojournalism at Ohio University’s School of Visual Communication. He has worked as the national photographer for the *Chicago Tribune*, as a freelance photographer for *National Geographic* and *Life* magazines and as official White House photographer for President Ronald Reagan.



Media from all over the United States, like David Wright of ABC national news, center, and the world crammed onto risers at Reynolds Coliseum at North Carolina State University in Raleigh to hear presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama address a crowd after winning the North Carolina Primary. Photo by Corey Lowenstein, *The News & Observer*

# Photo Op

EXCERPTS BY SUSAN KISMARIC

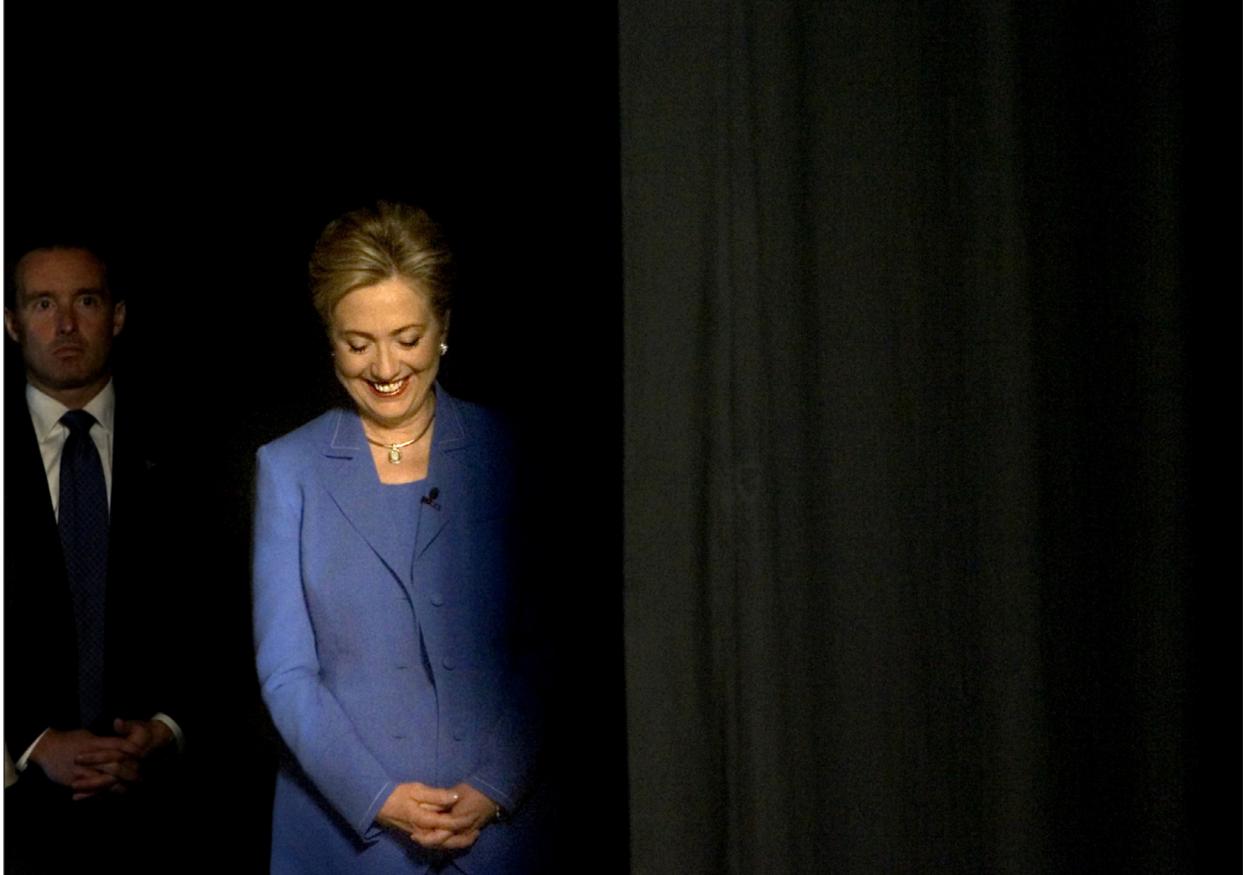
From *USA Today* magazine, published in New York by the Society for the Advancement of Education, Nov. 1, 1994

- In the 1800s, as photojournalism was beginning to take form, as popular values intersected with patriotism to create a folksy melange, candidates or officeholders were seen in the obligatory scene rife with the symbols of American culture — eating hot dogs, with or near a flag, greeting Indians. ... These symbols are meant to reinforce people's sense that the person pictured is "one of us," a **regular fellow who believes in the things we believe in**, in addition to being a patriot whose civic duty calls him from on high.
- Just as a politician could **transform his image** through canny manipulation of his appearance in a picture, a photographer could transfigure a politician merely by being present at an event.
- The increased security surrounding political figures during the past 20 years has made it very difficult for photographers to gain access to them except in **highly controlled situations**. No longer can a cameraman move in close to capture an intimate, off-guard moment. For the most part, hordes of photographers with the same assignment to "get the pic" are kept behind barricades and controlled by police or hired security personnel as they wait for an event to be manufactured.
- The **photo opportunity**, wherein the participants arrange themselves self-consciously to be recorded by cameras, is a purposefully staged activity and may have little to do with anything that actually transpired. Commissioned photographers encounter numerous and immense difficulties in their attempts to make meaningful photographs of politicians within this ritualized setting.
- Over time, politicians wisely, then perhaps cynically, learned to **protect themselves from the camera** and use it to their own advantage. ■

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks during a campaign event Jan. 25 at Freedom Center in Rock Hill, S.C.

Photo by Daniel Plassmann, *The Herald* (S.C.)





Backstage at Cary (N.C.) High School, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton laughs at the introduction she receives at a town hall meeting hosted by momlogic.com May 3. After her first stop in Cary, she campaigned in Wake Forest, Gastonia and Mooresville.



Sen. Barack Obama relaxes with his staff backstage after a town hall meeting at the Raiford G. Trask Coliseum on the University of North Carolina campus in Wilmington April 28. Later he traveled to Wilson and concluded the first day of his two-day state visit at the UNC campus in Chapel Hill, where he held an early-vote rally.



On stage with former military generals, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton stands out in the crowd at Methodist University in Fayetteville April 24. Later she traveled to Asheville to attend a "Solutions for America" event.



Nine days before the North Carolina primary, presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama checks with staff about whether he is clear to go on stage from a back room holding area. Volunteer Jess Owens-Shiplett, 28, of Wilmington, right, and other staff and secret service people are poised to follow him.

## Photos of the North Carolina Democratic primary campaign

by Corey Lowenstein, *The News & Observer*



**COREY LOWENSTEIN** joined the staff of *The News & Observer* in 1996. At the time, she was the first woman in more than a decade to be a staff photographer at the Raleigh newspaper. Her work has also been published in *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *People Magazine*, *Time* and *Newsweek*. Lowenstein has covered everything from sports and beauty pageants to "family values" rallies as well as traveling overseas to cover international stories that have touched her community. She has lived in a homeless shelter and camped on a tobacco farm for the summer. She said she believes the best part of being a photojournalist is being able to share moments that are overlooked or inaccessible to the public.



Photo by Jordan Nicholas



Photo by Jordan Nicholas

# Roadhouse

Big crowds, long lines and a lot of noise were highlights of the scene at Barack Obama's speech in Tampa, Fla., outside the *St. Petersburg Times* Forum. It was quite overwhelming for a first-time photographer assigned to capture visuals of a presidential candidate's speech in his hometown.

Once inside the forum the experience changed. At the front were supporters, and behind them were reporters and other representatives of the press. Broadcast media and photographers were situated on an elevated platform behind a barricade roughly 20 feet from the podium where Sen. Obama delivered his speech.

When the members of Obama's party began to talk, it was a madhouse as photographers tried to find a good spot and avoid getting blocked by people who were in front of the press area. However, it was fun to see the crowd's reactions to the powerful speech Obama gave and to take pictures of Obama speaking. It was exciting to cover such an event.

The only stressful situation that came to me happened when I moved for a second and another photographer moved into the space where I had been. Also, when I started taking crowd shots, people caught on and looked

directly at me for a posed shot, which I do not use. Besides that, because photographers and the crowd were both situated on the base floor, being short did not help. The cheering crowd blocked me from taking pictures.

I was surprised at some of the choreography. Staff members working on Obama's campaign passed out signs that looked homemade but were not. They passed them out to people in the stands. A couple of Obama's signature "Change" posters went to the base area crowd.

Unfortunately I was not able to find any Hillsborough High students, current or former, to showcase student participation.

Overall it was a truly great experience, something that I hope to partake in the near future. ■

**STEPHEN SOLORZANO**, photographer  
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(Joe Humphrey, adviser)



Photo by Daniel Plassmann, The Herald (S.C.)



Photo by Daniel Plassmann, The Herald (S.C.)