
Times Facts

Jon joined the *Times* organization in 1980 as a reporter for the *Evening Independent*, helping cover the catastrophic collapse of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge just two months later. He covered city, county and state government, prisons, education, and environmental issues, and served as special projects editor. In 1986, he joined the editorial board, which at that time included members of both the *Times* and *Independent*. The evening paper was closed that same year, and Jon has served on the board ever since. From 1995 to 2002, he was also editor of the Sunday Perspective section. As a member of the board, he writes about education, state and local government issues.

Talking Points

Editorial writing - education - state and local government

Education

Jon received a bachelor's degree in 1978 from the School of Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Background

Jon grew up in Winston-Salem, N.C., the son of a lifelong newspaper editor, and got his first taste of journalism as editor of his middle school and high school newspapers. After college, he worked government beats at the *Ocala Star-Banner* before joining the *Times* company. He lives in Clearwater with his wife, Janice, and has two daughters, Megan and Erika, who attend the University of Florida and UNC-CH. He writes frequently about education and says he agrees with John Dewey, who called public schools "the crucible of democracy."

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