
Times Facts

Sydney joined the *Times* in 1998 as a staff writer. She does a variety of investigative and enterprise reporting.

Talking Points

- Abuses of Power in the U.S. • Florida's Criminal Justice System
- Trends in American Journalism • Cults and New Religions

Sydney has appeared on NPR's *Morning Edition* and many local television and radio shows across the country. She is a frequent speaker at journalism industry conferences and has been a guest lecturer at several universities including Stanford, UC Berkeley, Columbia, Harvard, Michigan State and Miami.

Education

Sydney graduated *cum laude* from Harvard University with a bachelor's degree in History and Literature. She completed her graduate studies at Stanford University.

Background

Her journalism career began at Harvard, where Sydney served as associate managing editor of *The Harvard Crimson*. In 1976, she joined the *Staten Island Advance* as a reporter and night city editor. She then moved to *The Detroit News* where she was a staff writer for three years until 1983 when she moved to Florida and joined *The Miami Herald*. For a period of 16 months she worked for the *Wall Street Journal's* Miami bureau before returning to the *Herald* in 1988. She is the author of *Brother Love: Murder, Money and a Messiah*, a book published by Pantheon in 1994.

Awards

Sydney has won three Pulitzer Prizes and many significant journalism awards. In 1982, while with *The Detroit News*, she was one of a two-reporter team who won the Pulitzer for meritorious public service for a report which exposed a Navy cover-up in the peacetime death of sailors. In 1991, she was the lead reporter on a team at *The Miami Herald* which won the Pulitzer for spot reporting for their stories about Yahweh Ben Yahweh, his followers and their ties to homicides and politicians. In 1999, she was a member of another *Herald* team which won the investigative reporting Pulitzer for exposing massive fraud in a Miami mayoral election. Her work has been honored by UPI, AP, SDX, FSNE and SPJ among others. In 2001, Sydney was nominated by Harvard to serve as chief marshal for the 2001 Commencement Exercises.

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