
Times Facts

Since joining the *Times* in 1971, Rob has held many posts, including county government reporter, political editor, state editor, business editor and metro editor. In 2001 he was named Deputy Managing Editor with responsibility for developing and editing investigative projects and enterprise stories as well as managing the recruitment process, and various newsroom administrative functions.

Talking Points

• Investigative Journalism • Times History • News Writing & Editing

Education

Rob earned his bachelor's degree in history from Davidson College in 1969, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa and editor of the student newspaper. He received his master's degree in history from Vanderbilt University. His thesis was on race relations and the Mississippi news media in the early '60s.

Background

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, Rob grew up in Chapel Hill, NC. He began his career with the *Times* right after graduation from Vanderbilt. As a reporter or editor, he was involved in: an investigation of Pinellas county government, after which three commissioners went to jail; a series on smuggling which was a runner-up for a Pulitzer Prize in local reporting; an investigation of guardianship that led to statewide reform and an investigation of the UF football program which helped topple the head coach. In 1984, Rob researched and wrote a history of the *Times* on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. In 1987 he was the first city editor for the *Times* in Tampa when it launched its Tampa edition.

Awards

In 1983 Rob was the principal editor on a series by Lucy Morgan and Jack Reed on the Pasco County sheriff which won a Pulitzer prize for investigative reporting. He also led the team of metro staffers whose stories about the 1996 riots in St. Petersburg, "big" tobacco and the Rev. Henry Lyons were each Pulitzer finalists. The UF stories earned first prizes from the Education Writers of America and the Associated Press Sports Editors.

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