

## The Birth of a Column

By Louis P. Solomon

I have always wanted to write a column and have a lot of things to say about different subjects. My friends throughout the world receive my long e-mails where I rant and rave about a variety of subjects. I would like to tell you that all these transmissions are met with enthusiasm, but that's not the case. Frequently I receive responses from friends who make their opinions of my efforts crystal clear. Not that they always disagree with me; sometimes I even receive plaudits.



Through the graciousness of the publisher of *Kentlands Dot Us*, I have been given the opportunity to write a column about subjects that happen to intrigue me. What things bear discussion in a column? I intend to present thoughts that occur to me, generally randomly, while I am taking a walk with my wife, or when I can't sleep in the middle of the night, or at other times. These subjects might be international in implication, (should the US really continue with a ballistic missile defense?), of local interest (what about the future of the Intercounty Connector and is it really important?), and just personal observations (people don't seem to stop their cars at stop signs), and the implications that may be drawn about the human condition.

The subject matter is really for me to choose; eventually the column, however, must be accepted by the publisher. In the final analysis, nonetheless, it is for you, the reading public, to decide whether I have comments that bear scrutiny and may even be of some small value. I do not propose to focus on the details of the news as provided by the international TV networks, newspapers, periodicals, radio and the Internet. While I do have some thoughts on how they obtain their information and how they present it to the public, I will reserve that for a later time.

I have lived a long time and have done many things throughout the world. My experience, which is of course unique to me, is probably representative of many things that you have also encountered in your life. The experiences will be different in detail, and viewed differently because of our different backgrounds, biases, and approach to life. Nevertheless, we should be able to recognize that our experiences may have some common ground that allow us to discuss issues -even emotional issues- with a detached, careful and clear eye.

I think that I am quite open-minded and fair, but recognize that I have biases like all human beings. I have taught in the university world, served as a government employee at a relatively senior level for about a decade, and have worked for the military industrial complex in large and small firms. I have also started several firms of my own. Some of these have been successful; some have been failures; some of them are still being tested. I write books. I am married happily to Leslie Marks; we have six children between us from previous marriages, and seven grandchildren. I sail, take photographs, operate ham radio, run an amateur machine shop building small metal models, and review local restaurants for *Kentlands Dot Us*. I am starting **The Curious Club** in the Kentlands referenced on the News page here.

Since I am writing primarily for a relatively small group of people who are my neighbors in the

Kentlands/Lakelands area, it would be nice to hear from you through the Contact page or on the Forum. Perhaps sending a public response to my columns will be of interest to your friends and neighbors.

My columns will appear about once a month, and I look forward to hearing from you, my immediate Kentland neighbors, as well as from my neighbors throughout the Internet world.

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