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OTHER VIEWS

MORE LETTERS ONLINE "I fail to see how nationalizing medical coverage will result in better, more affordable care," writes Raymond T. Kyle of Florissant. "The cost of both Medicare and Medicaid have risen exponentially above projections." Read and comment on this letter and more letters online at STToday.com/letters.

Monday • Josh Goldberg, Maria Sanchez
Tuesday • David Brooks, Bob Herbert
Wednesday • Paul Krugman, David Ignatius
Thursday • Kathleen Parker
Saturday • Helen Goodhout
Sunday • Charles Krauthammer, Leonard Pitts

OP-ED

Our 12 new local contributors

Nearly 200 of you took us up last year on our call for readers who thought they had a knack for turning their thoughts and opinions into those peculiar, compact forms of written expression called newspaper commentaries. Responses came from all over the region, though mostly from the Missouri portion of our metropolitan region: St. Louis and St. Charles, Jefferson and Warren counties. The readers who responded were as young as 15 and as old as 62, but most were what we generously like to call middle age.

And given the voting tilt of our region, it wasn't surprising that most folks who indicated a political leaning leaned a bit left of center. But most folks didn't feel moved to mention politics at all. Almost everyone who took the time to respond, though, did so earnestly and with detail, sometimes funny, pitches for becoming guest contributors. And writing samples came in all forms: previously published letters to the editor, academic papers, personal and family memoirs, musings about life and the human condition and much, much more. After a lot of reading, re-reading and

ERIC MIKE COMMENTARY EDITOR

JONATHAN MORGAN

Kirkwood is my wife's hometown, and even though I was born in Kansas City and had to be dragged kicking and screaming to St. Louis in 2000, I honestly can say I love living here and can't imagine us living anywhere else with our three children. The 37 and have a bachelor's in English from the University of Kansas and an M.B.A. in finance from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. I work as a bank vice president in Brentwood, serve on a board member of the Better Business Bureau in St. Louis and am the current president of the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce. My wife and I are active in our church, and I volunteer as a student mentor.



CHUCK LAVAZZI

I have a graduate degree in psychology and actually made a living in the field for a while at McDonnell-Douglas and the Washington University Medical School Psychiatry Department. A few years ago I changed later finds me an IT — "information technology" — professional and a computer hobbyist. I've also completed the studies and curriculum development at St. Louis University — except for my dissertation. "I started a theater group at my parish over 16 years ago and am proud to say that I put men in tight, messengers in togas and pastors in ballet, and I may be the only adult female in the United States who doesn't own a cell phone."



DAVID MORRIS

I'm a semi-retired criminologist who was employed by the Illinois Department of Corrections and taught in the Criminal Justice and Criminology Department at Ball State University. I now serve on the adjunct faculty at Southwestern Illinois College, and I co-authored a book on prison guards. As for politics, I tend to take a cynical view: Conservatives always fail to change what is messed up, and liberals always mess up what they change. I am 64 and have learned some things. For example, truth varies from person to person, which means that even the most precise, complete recording of the facts misses someone's truth.



JOHN ROACH

John Roach, a non-practicing attorney, is a consultant on transportation and real estate matters. He has been an alderman in the city of St. Louis, was the city's first director of community development and served on the National Commission on Intermodal Transportation during the administration of President Bill Clinton. Through the Pantheon Corporation, he was involved in the development of DeBaltiere Place, Columbus Square, the Fox Theater, Lafayette Town and a variety of other projects, most of which focused on the historic rehabilitation of residential property. He also was involved in the development of the original MetroLink line to Lambert Field and the extension further into Illinois. John, 67, lives with his wife, Anna, and her niece Megan in the city's Central West End.



JESSICA PACHAK

I am a 16-year-old sophomore living in south St. Louis. I attend Nerinx Hall High School, where I write for the school newspaper, "Halloway." I feel compelled to share my views with others in part because I feel that you can not learn if you don't open yourself up to new ideas and in part because I feel that the voices of children often are ignored and silenced. I haven't seen much of the world, but I have seen and heard enough to form strong opinions of the issues going on around me. I play field hockey and love reading, writing and being with friends.



ANITA ANTON

Anita Anton lives in Melville and teaches theater arts and communications at St. Louis Community College at Meramec and St. Louis University. A mother and wife, she holds a bachelor's and a master's degrees from Webster University and has completed the work needed for a Ph.D. in educational studies and curriculum development at St. Louis University — except for my dissertation. "I started a theater group at my parish over 16 years ago and am proud to say that I put men in tight, messengers in togas and pastors in ballet, and I may be the only adult female in the United States who doesn't own a cell phone."



CHRISTINE PETERS

I'm a native St. Louisian who returned home after several years in Atlanta. I have degrees from the University of Missouri at Columbia and Washington University and work for HealthSouth Corporation as an occupational therapist specializing in the treatment of land injuries. I'm interested in personal development, observing cultural trends, health care issues, travel, dining and many many other things. I'm on the alumnae board of my high school and study — mostly — adjusting to answering "the high school question" is arduous.



TERRENCE FREEMAN

I'm Terrence L. Freeman of Spanish Lake, a engineering professor at St. Louis Community College. I was born in St. Louis 55 years ago but grew up and attended public schools in Cleveland. I have a bachelor's degree from Berea College Polytechnic Institute, a master's from M.I.T. and a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy studies from the University of Missouri at St. Louis. I have worked as a research engineer and as a senior project engineer in private industry, but at one point in my career managed an urban skating rink. I hold a black belt in Taekwondo, serve as a national program director for 100 Black Men of America and write poetry. I have worked as a consultant and volunteer with churches, community organizations, schools, industry and law enforcement with a focus on building a strong and vibrant community.



SARAHINA BERMAN

I was born and raised in Chicago, went to New York as a bride, moved to southern California 18 years and three children later and to St. Louis a dozen years after that. In between, I lived in Taipei for one year. I really loved St. Louis when I first moved here. Now I call it the best-kept secret in the United States. I particularly cherish my pair of St. Louis Symphony purport alicious, but my true claim to fame is having gone back to college to earn my bachelor's degree when I was almost 30. I have earned two master's degrees since. Now 60, I am a retired, self-employed clinical social worker, a docent at the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center, a former sixth-grade teacher and the writer of a published letter to the editor that defied honoring the memory of Marilyn Monroe by using her image on a U.S. postage stamp.



BRADLEY FRATELLO

Bradley Fratello, 38, lives in downtown St. Louis and works as an assistant professor in the art department at St. Louis Community College at Meramec. He moved to St. Louis 11 years ago from Atlanta, Ga, and serves as president of the Downtown St. Louis Residents' Association. He describes himself as "a skeptical liberal with populist, blue-collar roots that leave me only partially at home among the academics with whom I typically keep company."



MARC KOZAK

I grew up in Belleville and recently graduated from Illinois State University with a concentration in mass communication and English. I am currently unemployed, but if any of my friends from high school are reading this, disregard the previous sentence and substitute the following: I am currently married to a supermodel, make more than \$300,000 a year, own my own bling and am much more attractive than the picture accompanying this paragraph. It's an old picture. Seriously. If I must do a real live I wrote a weekly column for the student-run newspaper, The Daily Vidette, at Illinois State and was a disc-jockey for the campus radio station, WZND. I plan to work in journalism eventually, but in the meantime, I play piano for the Chicago-based rock band "Bottle of Jesus." Despite having lived in the St. Louis area for more than 20 years, I have been to the top of the Arch only once.



MARIA RODGERS O'ROURKE

The center of Maria Rodgers O'Rourke of Creve Coeur includes more than 20 years' experience as an account executive for BHN Advertising, as director of Lady and Family Life for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, as a not-for-profit executive director and as a color commentator for the O'Dwyer Channel during Pope John Paul II's 1999 visit. A native St. Louisian, Maria juggles marriage, raising two daughters and creative pursuits that include music, theater and writing.



SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS Our revised weekly lineup

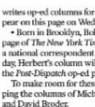
I've been two years since we shuck up our weekly lineup of nationally syndicated columnists. This time around, it's more of a tweak. We're maintaining our equal balance of conservatives and liberals, of course, but adding three new writers to our weekly group of 12. • Mary Sanchez is an opinion-page columnist based at the East-City Star in her hometown, and the daughter of a Mexican immigrant. Her wide-ranging columns include a focus on race, culture and trade. Her columns will appear in the Post-Dispatch on Mondays, starting next week. • David Ignatius, a former Wall Street Journal reporter and business editor for the Washington Post, now writes op-ed columns for the Post. His pieces will appear on this page on Wednesdays, starting this week. • Born in Brooklyn, Bob Herbert joined the op-ed page of The New York Times in 1991, after two years as a national correspondent for NBC News. Starting Tuesday, Herbert's column will become a regular feature of the Post-Dispatch op-ed page. To make room for these fresh voices, we are dropping the columns of Michael Barone, Maureen Dowd and David Broder. The new weekly lineup is: Mondays: Maria Sanchez and Josh Goldberg; Tuesdays: David Brooks and Bob Herbert; Wednesdays: Paul Krugman and David Ignatius; Thursdays: Kathleen Parker; Saturdays: Helen Goodhout; Sundays: Charles Krauthammer and Leonard Pitts.



Mary Sanchez



David Ignatius



Bob Herbert

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