

2007 Speaker



Photo by Bob Owen

Rob Kaiser

Rob Kaiser is assistant managing editor for Sundays and projects, and the first writing coach at the *San Antonio Express-News*. Before joining the *Express-News*, Kaiser was an award-winning reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*. He wrote front-page takeouts, narrative series and covered several major national stories, including school shootings in Kentucky and Oregon, the homecoming of Jessica Lynch and the Confederate flag controversy in the South. Kaiser also worked for a time as a staff writer for the *Tribune's* Sunday magazine. His impressionist work included front-page stories about Chicago in white after the blizzard of 1999; riding the city of New Orleans after a fatal train crash on that historic cross-country line; and the lonely plight of old roadside motels—and the people who still stay in them. Kaiser won the *Tribune's* annual Jones-Beck writing award in 1999. One of his narratives, a four-part series about the shooting death of a Chicago cop, was anthologized in *Best Newspaper Writing 2000*. After Sept. 11, 2001, he drove around the country writing about how the terrorist attacks had changed life in America, a tour of the nation's back roads and psyche that lasted two and a half months. His two-part narrative about life in the Sears Tower after the terrorist attacks was the centerpiece of a package of stories that the *Tribune* published a year after the World Trade Center fell. Before joining the *Tribune*, Kaiser was an award-winning columnist and editorial writer for *The Cincinnati Enquirer*. In 1996 the Kentucky Press Association named him best columnist in the state. Kaiser was a Duke University-Knight Ridder Fellow in 1994.

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