

People

Interest Groups

Education reform is all the rage in Washington these days, but **Adam Levner** and **Heather Rieman** are taking a more grassroots—and graphic—approach. The two have just launched *Critical Exposure*, an organization aimed at improving the quality of public schools by using the photography and first-person narratives of students and teachers.

Levner, a former teacher, and Rieman, a former policy analyst with the Education Department, were worried about the disparity in resources among public schools and how it affects the quality of education. So last year, the duo, along with local community partners, launched a pilot project in Baltimore with middle and high school students, teaching them how to document conditions at their schools through photojournalism and writing.

The kids' photos—which include shots of broken toilets and bathrooms littered with cigarette butts—have caught the attention of some Maryland state lawmakers, including Democratic House Delegate **Keith Haynes**. Levner and Rieman hope to expand the program to other parts of the country, including New York City. Levner says the group might focus on Washington, D.C., schools someday, but he notes that the city's complex funding structure and relationship to the federal government make it difficult to successfully target advocacy efforts, particularly on a policy issue like education, which traditionally has been the purview of state and local governments.

So far, *Critical Exposure* is a shoestring operation, but Levner and Rieman have managed to scare up about \$23,000, and to persuade an impressive roster of groups to sponsor the effort. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Melton Arts Foundation, and the Social Venture Capital Foundation have contributed money, and the Public Education Network has donated office space



MIKE MASTRIAN
Director of Senate Radio-Television Gallery

to Levner and Rieman in downtown D.C. Washington lawyers **Lisa Trovato** and **Kyungseok Kim** of DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary are providing pro bono legal advice.

Levner, 30, and Rieman, 31, met as students at Tufts University.

—Kellie Lunney

Hill People

Mike Mastrian hasn't been around the Senate for nearly as long as Sen. **Robert Byrd**, D-W.Va., has, but he sounds as if he has just as much reverence for the institution. Mastrian is the new director of the Senate Radio-Television Gallery, succeeding the retiring **Larry Janezich**. Mastrian wasn't originally involved in media, but he switched to that field as a way to remain in the Senate. A New Castle, Pa., native, and graduate of John Carroll University in Cleveland, Mastrian came to Washington in 1989 to work for then-Sen. **Howard Metzenbaum**, D-Ohio. He started in the mailroom, and eventually became a legislative assistant on transportation issues. When Metzenbaum retired in 1995, Mastrian moved to the gallery. "I wanted to continue a Senate career. I didn't think I was finished here on the Hill, and I wanted to broaden my background," says Mastrian, 38.

Before becoming gallery director, Mastrian was a media-relations coordinator. He says his most memorable moment at the gallery was on 9/11, setting up the logistics with the networks to tape the singing of "God Bless America" by members of Congress on the Capitol steps. He says that the most important advice that Janezich offered him was simple: "We are to facilitate, but not promote, broadcast news coverage," says Mastrian. "I think that's his biggest piece of advice to me, and I have to make sure that I continue to do that."

—Gregg Sangillo

Around the Agencies

Some of the most powerful jobs in Washington can also be some of the most thankless. **Tina Henry**, the new director of scheduling and advance at the Education Department, chuckles over those who think they can "backdoor" Washington's gatekeepers. Henry has a sense of humor about the plight of the scheduler, but it also helps that she really enjoys the job—all of it. "All the event planning and coordinating, and moving pieces, and combining the message for the event," she rattles off.

Before heading to Education to work for Secretary **Margaret Spellings**, Henry ran the scheduling and advance shop at the Labor Department. She has a 2-year-old and is married to American Gas Association Public Affairs Director **Darrell Henry**, and she says she was "ready for a break" and was planning to leave Labor. But when she realized that she wasn't quite prepared to leave government, she took the gig at Education. "It was the right place at the right time."

Spellings has a busy schedule this month, Henry says. The new secretary is visiting several schools across the country to talk about the president's plan for greater accountability standards in high schools. Henry's focus, as always, is making sure that the trains



HEATHER RIEMAN AND ADAM LEVNER: Encouraging first-person narratives

run on time, and that the events highlight the department's policies. But she also is considerate of her boss's time and energy. "You have to make sure they are not running from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.," says Henry, 38. "You can't do that to people."

Henry, who also served as scheduler to Sen. **Kay Bailey Hutchison**, R-Texas, knows how to keep her eyes on the big picture and avoid getting mired in detail. "One thing I've learned is, you prioritize and delegate, and know and trust your staff," she says. Henry says her shop will add some new hires soon—part and parcel of any new regime in an executive agency. At the



TINA HENRY
Scheduler for Margaret Spellings

Labor Department, **Leah Levy**, director of operations, has picked up Henry's scheduling and advance responsibilities.

—K.L.

In the Tanks

Scott Bates doesn't even have to leave the Capitol Hill neighborhood to take his new position as senior fellow at the Center for National Policy. Starting later this month, he'll be working at the think tank, just blocks from his old offices at the House Homeland Security Committee, where he served as senior policy adviser. That's nothing compared with the ground Bates covered to land some of his other jobs.

In 1999, Bates was working in Washington as a political consultant with Crouse & Malchow, after serving as campaign manager for Rep. **Jim Turner**, D-Texas, three years earlier. At the time, the Balkans were on the brink of yet another crisis, and Bates put his consulting work on hold to journey to the region and join the international humanitarian effort. He traveled extensively throughout the region and volunteered in Kosovo refugee camps. "The stories of the people there really affect-

ed me," said Bates, 39, who holds a law degree from the University of Virginia. "These people had been driven out of their homes. I just felt compelled, because this was NATO's first war, that we had to prevail."

The experience led Bates to sign on with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in early 2001 as a political adviser to the emerging government in Kosovo. And he might have stayed in the region if not for September 11. After the 2001 terrorist attacks, Bates decided to go to Afghanistan. He arrived in Kabul in the summer of 2002, serving as an NDI adviser to the Afghan council, or *loya jirga*, that paved the way for the country's post-Taliban government.

After his stint in Afghanistan, Bates left the institute and returned to Washington, where he joined Turner's staff shortly before the congressman became the ranking Democrat on the Homeland Security Committee. Through his committee work, Bates got to know **Timothy Roemer**, president of the Center for National Policy and a member of the 9/11 commission. Earlier this year, Roemer, formerly a six-term Democratic member of Congress from Indiana, asked Bates to join the center, where Bates will focus on terrorism and other national security matters. "We both have a passion for these issues," said Bates, a Connecticut native who earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton in Ohio. "We both believe that protecting America from the asymmetric threats of terrorism is going to be the biggest challenge ... of the first quarter of this century."

—Mark Kukis

Corporate Life

Recently departed White House Deputy Counsel **David Leitch** is the new general counsel and senior vice president at Ford Motor in Dearborn,