

2008 Steven Pearlstein, *Washington Post*.

Steve started out in journalism in 1973 right out Trinity College, where he was editor of the school newspaper. He worked his first job was at *Foster's Daily Democrat* in Dover, N.H., the Concord, N.H. *Monitor* where he covered local, state and federal courts. One story caught the eye of John Durkin, the newly elected U.S. senator, who invited Steve to Washington to join his staff. For the next two years, Steve served as Durkin's press secretary and administrative assistant before jumping to the House of Representatives, where he served as administrative assistant to Rep. Michael Harrington of Massachusetts.

With Harrington's retirement from politics in 1978, Steve moved to Boston's public television station, WGBH-TV, where he was a writer and on-air reporter for the nightly Ten O'Clock News. In 1982, he left the station and launched the *Boston Observer*, a monthly journal of liberal opinion for which he held the official title as editor and publisher but unofficially was also the ad salesperson, circulation director and typesetter. The *Observer* was a critical success but not a financial one, and closed its doors in 1986. For the next two years, he worked as a senior editor at Inc., the business monthly magazine, until being recruited to the *Washington Post* in 1988 as deputy business editor, overseeing the paper's daily and Sunday coverage.

He returned to reporting in 1991 to cover the defense industry following the end of the Cold War. Two years later, he became the newspaper's chief economic correspondent. In 1998, Steve moved to Toronto as the *Post's* Canadian correspondent, returning in 2000 to Washington and the business sector to cover the bursting of the tech and telecom bubble. He began writing his twice-weekly opinion column for the *Post* in the spring of 2003, and quickly got a reputation for unpredictable, hard-hitting commentary on a wide range of issues, from business and management to economics and economic policy. Steve won the Gerald Loeb award for his columns in 2006. In 2008, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 2008, the first business columnist ever to win that award.

Virgil, *Aeneid* II: "Even then Cassandra opened her lips for the coming doom – lips at a god's command never believed by the Trojans. We, hapless ones, for whom that day was our last, wreath the shrines of the gods with festal boughs throughout the city."

To read Steve's prizewinning columns from 2007 is to know what the surviving Trojans must have felt like. Unlike Cassandra, however, he is not a prophet without honor, and I am delighted not only to be able to honor him but also to be able to hear him.

