



Opinions



Kill the messenger?

Readers attack traditional GOP voices. **Page B-3**

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Gracious in defeat

In last week's concession speech, John McCain told his supporters that "though we fell short, the failure is mine, not yours." I construe this as his apology for a race that seemed unworthy of the statesman who's long been praised for integrity. It hinted at a lapse in the very quality his advocates promoted as his highest distinction: a resolve that would make him ideal as commander in chief.

It now seems clear that the Double-Talk Express was frequently at odds with the GOP candidate's deepest convictions. That's why his final speech may well have been his finest. In *Macbeth* we hear the last words about a repentant traitor: "Nothing in his life," we're told, "became him like the leaving it." If we substitute campaign for life here, we have a coda for what needn't be the concluding chapter in a biography that has often proved inspirational.

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