

## Roy Lewis: A Photo Essay

Roy Lewis' love of photography stems from a deep well of experiences unique to a young African-American growing up in rural Mississippi during the late 40's and early 50's. Having the opportunity to accompany a relative on travels throughout Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi, working after-school at a local newspaper and concerned teachers and community members all combined to encourage Lewis' questioning mind. Photography became a means for communicating, capturing and expressing moods and ideas.

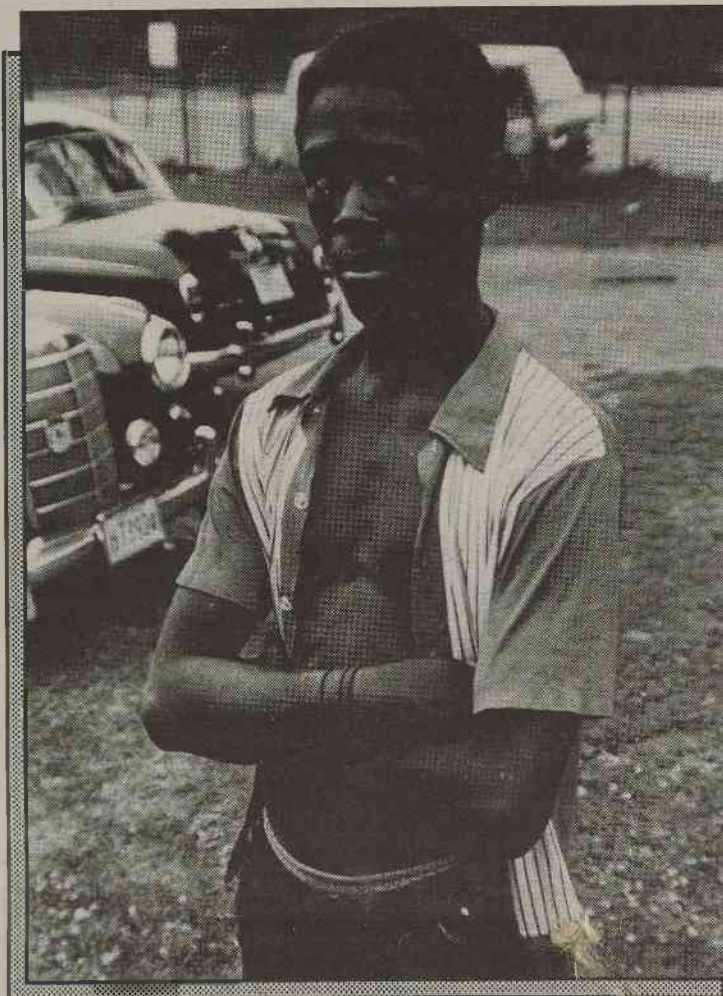
In 1956, after graduating from high school, Lewis moved to Chicago and began working with Johnson Publishing Company. Although he did not immediately begin working with photography, he later returned to Johnson after spending two years in the army. Lewis remained there from 1962 to 1968 and covered personalities and protests, among many other things.

Chicago introduced Lewis to many of the leading black figures of the 1960's: Elijah Muhammed, Stokely Carmichael, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nikki Giovanni among others. His focus on poets, artists and dancers resulted in a lengthy documentation on Pulitzer Prize winner Gwendolyn Brooks and a nearly 20-year photo history of noted writer Sterling Brown. Other special themes of work have included the family, the black social worker, social conditions, the visual arts and religion.

After leaving Johnson Publishing in 1968, Lewis developed a training workshop in photography for the Office of Economic Opportunity and served as Director of Cinematography and Promotion for Project Reach at Notre Dame University.

Upon moving to Washington, D.C. in 1973, Lewis continued his free-lance work while also teaching and lecturing at Howard University, as well as other area community organizations. In addition, Lewis was retained by a Howard University owned television station, WHMM as it's Manager of Photographic Services. His other free-lance assignments have included work for the Howard University Press, *Life*, *Black Enterprise* and *Essence* magazines, as well as the Congressional Black Caucus among others.

### Don't Mess With Me



### MLK, Jesse Jackson And Their Legions Marching On Chicago

