

The Rainbow Register

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Written and produced by the students of the Rainbow Institute

Rainbow Institute promotes diversity

Three-week program merges talent, cultures, friendships

by Margaret Peterson and Nathan Moya
Rainbow Register Staff

For the third consecutive year, 15 outstanding journalism students from across the nation came together at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for three weeks of intense journalism training.

The Freedom Forum-Rainbow Institute has grown to two sites this year, one at UNC-CH and a second at San Francisco State University. Both are funded by the Freedom Forum in Arlington Va., which provided \$68,000 per site. The Freedom Forum is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that is dedicated to free press, free speech and free spirit. The institutes give the students journalism training, news writing experience and the chance to go into the community to research their stories.

The Freedom Forum Rainbow Institute is also sponsored The American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE). Student are selected in national competition and are sponsored by ASNE member newspapers, which provide a mentor relationship with their sponsored students.

"The Freedom Forum Rainbow Institute is a fountainhead for increasing the number of minorities in journalism in America," said Chuck Stone, co-director of the institute.

This year's participants represent a diverse rainbow of cultures. At UNC-CH the students hail from across the country.

The students and their sponsoring newspapers are Elizabeth Barajas, Lincoln, Neb., *Lincoln Star*; Rosene Cobbs, Lansing, Mich., *Lansing State Journal*; Leeza Duong, Garden Grove, Ca-

lif., *The Orange County Register*; Tamika Forkner, Jackson Miss., *The Clarion-Ledger*; Ardua Harris, Fort Wayne, Ind., *The Journal Gazette*; Kendrah Harper, Lakeland, Fla., *The Ledger*; Khefren Johnson, Cleveland Ohio, *The Plain Dealer*; Mike Dang, Modesto Calif., *Modesto Bee*; Karen Kim, Farmington, N.Y., *The Daily Messenger*; Anthony Lin, Washington D.C., *Gannett News Service*; Nathan Moya, Aptos Calif., *Santa Cruz Sentinel*; Margaret Peterson, Utica, N.Y., *Observer-Dispatch*; Dana Quintana, Albuquerque, N.M., *The Albuquerque Tribune*; Stacey Rapisura, Oakdale Calif., *Modesto Bee*; and James Thomas, Detroit, Mich., *Detroit Free Press*.

Aside from the events, the work and the lectures, an integral part of the program was the people.

The students managed to find many common bonds, one of which was their immediate attraction to teachers David Hawpe and Merv Aubespin. Ardua Harris of Fort Wayne, Ind., said of the two editors from the *Louisville Courier-Journal*: "They had a very approachable manner. I had a lot of laughs... I learned a lot in the week they were here."

The other instructors also had a great impact on the students, Jan Elliott is an associate professor at UNC-CH, and the co-director of the Institute. Elliott played an intricate part in bringing the students together. She took on many jobs and was like a mother to the 15 students plus a chauffeur and an editor. As one student put it, "Jan is a very sweet woman who tries to ensure that we have the best time possible."

Chuck Stone was also co-director of the institute. Stone wowed all the institute kids by having the ability to quote the Bible and other

books, most of which the kids never heard of. Elizabeth Barajas of Lincoln, Neb., said: "He was the most inspirational man I've ever met. From him I learned a lot about writing and how to succeed."

Besides serving as a role model for all young adults, Stone is also the Walter Spearman Professor in the UNC-CH School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

When the students weren't working, they found a variety of things to do around campus. The most popular past-times, as stated by Rosene Cobbs, were, "Shopping, shopping and watching T.V. with everyone else in the lounge." Students also enjoyed exploring the campus and taking advantage of the recreation room and swimming pool.

Even for a well organized program, students still felt the need for a change in some areas. "If I could change anything, I'd like to have the freedom to choose which topics we want to write," said Karen Kim, of Farmington, N.Y. "It's part of the journalism experience."

"I'd like it if we had shorter days," said Ardua Harris. The routine for the Rainbow students involved waking up around 7 a.m. and wrapping up at about 5 p.m., not including time spent doing homework. Most students wouldn't go to bed until after midnight.

At the completion of the program and the six-week internship at their sponsoring newspapers, each student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. "The \$1,000 scholarship really makes up for the horrendous schedule," said James Thomas of Detroit, Mich.

A quote by Malcom X summarizes the attitudes of the young minority journalists, "Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."



Photo by Will Owens

Back row left to right: Khefren Johnson, Chuck Stone, James Thomas, David Hawpe, Miguel Casas, Cassandra Sledge, Tony Lin. Second row from left: Merv Aubespin, Jan Elliott, Margaret Peterson, Ardua Harris, Elizabeth Barajas, Tamika Forkner, Nathan Moya, Kendrah Harris. Third row, seated, Mike Dang, Dana Quintana, Karen Kim, Leeza Duong, Stacey Rapisura. Seated front: Valerie Fields, Rosene Cobbs.

Poll: Three out of five people say Simpson may be guilty

by Leeza Duong and Tony Lin
Rainbow Register Staff

Three out of five North Carolinians said they think football hero O.J. Simpson could be guilty of the double murder charges brought against him, according to a recent survey.

The survey showed that about 7 percent of the people polled said they believe Simpson is definitely guilty of the charges, while 53 percent feel that the charges are probably true. Simpson has been charged with murder in the death of his ex-

wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

Twelve percent of the people surveyed said they feel that the charges against Simpson are probably untrue, and 2 percent said they feel that O.J. Simpson is definitely innocent. Twenty-two percent said they don't know if the charges are true, while 5 percent had no response.

Students in the Freedom Forum Rainbow Institute interviewed 177 people June 25 at shopping centers in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. They were asked a range of questions from the O.J. Simpson case to

whether they had been to a palm reader to how they would rank their happiness.

The survey also asked if people think that other people were capable of murdering someone, given certain circumstances. Sixty-four percent said yes, while 27 percent said no. Ten percent said they didn't know or had no response.

When asked if they would be capable of murder, 51 percent said they would, and 40 percent said they would not. Eight percent said that they did not know or did not have a response to the question.

Men and women did not differ very much in their responses:

- Sixty-four percent of women and 65 percent of men surveyed said they feel that people are capable of murder.
- Fifty-one percent of women and 53 percent of men surveyed said that they would be capable of murder.

Seven out of 10 people polled said they are happier now than they were five years ago.

While picturing a ratings ladder with 10 being at the top, 48 percent said that five years ago they would have rated their happiness a six or better, compared with the 72 percent which viewed their current state of happiness just as high.

Looking five years ahead, 93 percent expect to be just as happy, according to the poll.

The poll also asked people to rate a list of events that might make them happy. Rated highly—a six or above—were eating a good meal (72 percent); getting a sum of money

(74 percent); and spending time with family (90 percent) and friends (93 percent). Having a good job would make most people happy (96 percent).

Meeting a famous person and going to a rock concert were least popular; only 29 and 19 percent, respectively, rated them favorably. Respondents were split on events like meeting an attractive person and spending time with small children.

On other topics:

- Fifty-six percent, much higher than national polls, approved of the way President Clinton is going his job.
- People were split between somewhat likely and not likely on the possibility of war in Korea. Eighty-four percent could place Korea on the continent of Asia.
- Nearly one-fourth said they would pierce a body part besides the ear, for example, the nose (15 percent) and the belly button (5 percent). Almost 70 percent would not pierce any body part.
- Only one-tenth said they had visited a professional palm reader.

The gender distribution was split almost even, and almost half were between ages 26 and 45. Sixty percent were employed, while 23 percent were students. About 56 percent considered themselves Southerners.

Of the 177 people polled, 119 were white, two were Indian, 30 were African American, six were Asian or Pacific Islander, and 20 other people belonged to race not listed.

Releasing inmates tough job for Baker

by Elizabeth Barajas and Margaret Peterson
Rainbow Register Staff

In the past year, the North Carolina Parole Commission has handled more than 26,000 cases and witnessed the unsuccessful rehabilitation of thousands of offenders who have returned to the state's prison system.

The community wants a reason, the board wants a solution, and Juanita Baker, chairman of the N.C. Parole Commission, is in the middle of it all.

Baker said prisons in North Carolina are at maximum capacity with 22,000 inmates.

"If we don't get the number down to 20,000, we are breaking the law," said Baker.

Baker has been in corrections for 32 years and was the former superintendent for the N.C. Women's Correctional Center.

"It is a different ball game all together," said Baker. "We see about 250 to 600 cases a month. Two commissioners review each case, then they say let them go or keep them."

"The important thing is that we are keeping the truly violent offenders off the streets," said Baker. "We know that it is a revolving door for the short-term misdemeanors offenders, but we have to do what the law says."

Tracy Herring, commission public information officer, said the commission handles 250 to 600 cases a month.

Baker held up a 4-inch-thick

file on one prisoner captured for a string of armed robberies and said, "Many of them just keep coming back."

Baker added that in an overcrowded situation, the parole commission can no longer afford to arrest offenders that violate parole conditions.

"The fact is, in a cap situation, bad people sometimes get back on the streets. Sometimes, I just want to hold my nose and throw-up," said Baker, referring to some of the cases that the commission must consider.

Baker said that Franklin Freeman, secretary of corrections, has plans to increase the capacity in prisons. The projects in progress will create more space for inmates, but Baker said prisons are not the answer.

"Prisons are not a cure all. I truly believe alcoholics and drug offenders need treatment type facilities, not prison," said Baker.

Even when seeking professional rehabilitation is part of their sentence, many chose to ignore it. "They keep saying they'll get help, but they don't," said Baker.

Baker also lamented the young age of offenders. The state has more than 5,000 inmates who are under the age of 25. "The state needs money for education, health facilities, treatment and rehabilitation," she said.

Baker said programs and new prisons ultimately can help those offenders who want to help themselves. "Rehabilitation is from within."

