

PROFILES

UNC's Chuck Stone takes journalism world by storm

By Kanika Jelks

Chuck Stone entered the field of journalism with a trail of fire behind him.

He didn't major in journalism, because growing up he had no idea what career he wanted to go into. After graduation from college, he almost took a job as assistant director of Asian Affairs.

But he didn't.

Instead Chuck Stone took a job with the New York Age as a beginning reporter with a salary that paid three times less than his other offer.

He had a newly formed family, times were hard, but he followed his instincts, and in five months he climbed the ranks from starting reporter to editor-in-chief of the New York Age, then America's oldest historically black newspaper. His climb to the top surpassed many employees who had been there for years. Five people quit.

"I was all over that newsroom," said Stone. "I wanted to try everything."

That was only the beginning. Now, 37 years later, Chuck Stone, author of three published books,



Chuck Stone

is still taking the journalism world by storm. As Walter Spearman professor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, he teaches two classes and directs the Rainbow Institute. Stone is also a syndicated columnist with articles

in more than 100 papers.

But this hardly is the climax of his career. He still has aspirations to write five more books, all before he retires.

There is no title that can accurately describe Chuck Stone. He is a journalist, a historian, a political consultant, a novelist and much more.

Charles Sumner Stone is a real life Clark Kent.

He has traveled to 18 countries and lunched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He has conversed with Malcolm X and has even been featured as a character in a Batman comic book.

Stone's accomplishments continue to grow, and he finds a new lesson with each experience.

Enlightenment is the lesson he's encountered most recently as director of the Rainbow Institute. Working with aspiring young journalists has nurtured his view of humanity.

"The kids (of the Rainbow Institute) have given me a reaffirmation of the wonders of humanity," Stone said.

Stone said he tries to contribute his years of experience in cumula-

tive diversity to show the students that they can be equally successful. He also tries to learn lessons from the students.

"This program has been so enriching. This has really been a humbling experience," Stone said.

Stone can often be seen transcribing words of knowledge from his years of experience through his typewriter. Stone's presence is often accompanied by a quote or anecdote which sheds light on the vast amount of wisdom he has. His latest story is always equally or more interesting than its predecessor.

Stone tells a story of how Dr. King's assassination directly affected him.

"I had just talked with Martin two months earlier. We met at a voting for the Phantom march. Martin was in favor of the cause, but the decision went against it. I can remember him telling me I could have made the difference," Stone said of the last time he talked to King.

"I was in Washington when I heard he was shot. I didn't know he had been killed. Stokely Carmichael told me to come in-

side (of the Civil Rights Building)." Stone refused. "No, I'll just stand outside. It was then that Carmichael yelled to me, 'Chuck, Martin's dead!'"

Stone reveals the Civil Rights Movement was one of the most triumphant but also most difficult times of his life. Many of his friends and colleagues such as King, Malcolm X and Adam Clayton Powell came to a rise and fall during this time period.

Stone once worked for Powell as a political adviser. When Powell's term in office came to a close, Stone was out of a job also. He turned a possibly devastating situation into a positive one, by never giving up. He uses this period in his life to illustrate the power of perseverance.

"You always have to keep trying and never give up," Stone said. "Excellence is its own reward."

Throughout his life, Stone has opted for change. He came to teach at UNC-CH because he felt he needed a change. He had been the senior editor of the Philadelphia Daily News for 13 years.

"I felt I wanted a change, a new

experience," Stone said. He said the only way to grow is to accept new challenges.

While Stone enjoys a change in the pace of his lifestyle often, there are certain constants that forever remain the same. His commitment to his family is one of them.

Stone has been married for 34 years. He has three children, each who have found success in his or her own unique ways. One is a nurse, one an actress, and another a music video director. He said he is quite proud of their successes. And it shows when he is asked about them... before he says a word.

Chuck Stone seems to be followed by success. The Rainbow Institute is one example. He has a way of working with others to make things happen.

He has helped to make dreams reality for 15 young journalists. He offered them simple advice.

"Be the best, there is no substitute for excellence. The only thing worse than being number two is being number three."

That's good advice, coming from No. 1.

Elliott juggles busy schedule of kids, teaching, writing

By Darlene Harper

Rainbow Institute associate director Jan Elliott is associate professor and also assistant to the dean in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She also is a mother and a wife who has to juggle her day around home and work. Some people call her Superwoman. "The bad thing about being a superwoman is everyone expects you to do everything and you don't want to say no," said Elliott, who admitted she often takes on too much.

Elliott graduated from UNC-CH in 1970. She then returned to her home state Florida where she attended the University of Florida and received her master's degree in journalism.

She returned to North Carolina and worked at The Raleigh Times. She said she loved it and stayed for six years. "It was great because everyone was fresh out of college."

During her stay there, she covered general assignment news, prison and health beats, then became assistant city editor.

She was married in 1981 to Jim Elliott, who was a journalist but in 1984 changed his career to become a pilot.

Four years later, at the age of 35 she became pregnant with her first child, Katherine. That's when her mother told her that her life would start to change. It changed again in 1987 when she had her second daughter, Margaret.

"I have to plan everything now. I have very little privacy," she said. "Despite all the negativity, it's worth it."

Her home reflects the antique collecting she did while single. She has a old Singer sewing machine stand that she made into a table by putting a piece of marble across the top. She also has furniture handed down from her husband's grandmother.

She said she feels every part of her home should be lived in and it's a waste to use certain parts of the house for only special occasions. "That's just the practical side of me," she added.

She also writes a weekly column called "Life with Kids" for the Herald-Sun newspaper in Durham.

Resident advisers are substitute parents

By Ana Vasquez

They are just like big sisters. More than just resident advisers and chaperones, Lisa Underwood and Natalie Godwin, who worked with the Rainbow Institute for the past three weeks, are friends. Many students say they played an important part in making the Institute a success.

"They are both good people and when needed they can be great assets to the program," said Isamu Jordan, a Rainbow Institute student. "Lisa is really laid back and helps relieve us from stress. She reminds us to smile when we forget. Natalie exhibits responsibility and helps us keep in tune with the seriousness of this program."

Many people worked long hours to ensure the Rainbow Institute ran smoothly. Underwood and Godwin gave up three weeks this summer to live in Granville Towers with the Rainbow students.

Godwin, 22, is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) with a major in Broadcast Journalism. Jan Elliott, the associate director, offered her a job working at the Rainbow Institute.

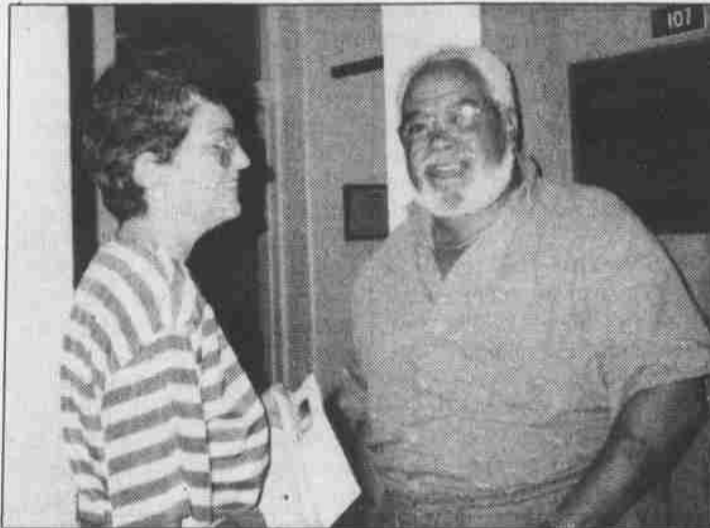
Godwin feels it has been interesting to see how all the students came from across the country to produce a paper.

"I'm honored to be working with the first Rainbow Institute. Anytime students come together in a learning environment, they can only enhance from each other's skills and grow from the experience," Godwin said.

Underwood, also 22, from West Virginia, is a public relations major at UNC. Her public relations teacher told her about the Rainbow Institute and she was interested in the program because it dealt with journalism and was offered to students from across the country.

"What I found interesting about the program was not the differences of races, but the difference in areas that everybody came from," Underwood said.

Both Underwood and Godwin plan to pursue careers in journalism. Godwin said she hopes to go into the area of broadcasting and someday have her own talk show. Underwood said she is more interested in social work. She hopes she can work in Disney World's public relations department.



Jan Elliott and Merv Aubespin leave class after day's activities

Editor of Kentucky paper champions racial diversity

By Sean Lopez

Young David Hawpe took over the school safety patrol street corner only because located the station guaranteed a daily treat from the owner of a nearby candy store. Hawpe had no idea this success would propel him into his journalism career and ultimately to editor of The Courier Journal in Louisville.

Now Hawpe can have all the candy he wants.

"For reasons I still can't figure out to this day, the captain of the safety patrol had to be editor of the school newspaper," Hawpe said. "So I edited my first newspaper at age 12."

Hawpe went on to become editor of his junior high, high school and college newspapers. Elected scribe of the Boy Scouts and historian of his senior class, Hawpe was always identified as a writer.

In contrast to the typical teenage jock, Hawpe was unathletic, skinny and interested in classical music, poetry and art. While other boys were out playing sports, he would sit for long hours and read from the Lincoln Library of Essential Information. Today he determines what is essential information.

"I like being editor of The Courier Journal. I enjoy the opportunity to have a significant influence that's good," Hawpe said.

But in addition to enjoying the power of his position, Hawpe takes a responsible stance. He knows the tremendous responsibility inherent in his position, and because he is human and fallible, he says it can be very nerve-wracking.

"I sit in my office and juggle two metal balls between my fingers," Hawpe joked.

But evidence of Hawpe's commitment to fairness and balance in the newsroom is seen in the projects he is involved in and the positions he has held.

Hawpe is vice-chairman of the minority affairs committee of ASNE (American Society of News-

paper Editors), a member of an accrediting committee for schools and colleges, a member of NABJ (National Association of Black Journalists) and a member of the minority committee of APME (Associated Press Managing Editors).

He conducted the first national poll of minority working journalists, instigated the first minority census among Kentucky newspapers, instigated a Poynter Institute program for writing teachers at historically black colleges (HBCs), created flying start courses at HBCs and created a "How To" report to assist editors in recruiting, developing and retaining minority staff members.

"He also uses every opportunity he has to speak publicly about diversity," said Merv Aubespin, Associate Editor of The Courier Journal and Hawpe's long time best friend.

Hawpe's mission to promote diversity in newsrooms stems partly from his experiences with racism while growing up in the 60s.

"My mother would make me give up my bus seat for a black woman, and even though I didn't understand these ramifications, I remember being proud of her value system," Hawpe said.

Hawpe, who observed police brutality at the 1968 Democratic convention and watched his friend be denied a restaurant table in Chatsworth, Ga., became involved in the pre-eminent moral and political issues of the '60s.

"You can do the most good for the most people by illuminating these kinds of issues," Hawpe said. "Every generation has lances to carry, and ours was the civil rights movement."

Hawpe is a real champion of

See HAWPE, page 5

Uncle Merv adopts, counsels, mentors Rainbow students

By Taylor Margis-Noguera

Everybody has a favorite uncle, the one whose ingenuity, charisma and dedication to family brings out the best in people. Throughout his career as a journalist, educator and equal-opportunity activist, Mervin Aubespin, affectionally known as "Uncle Merv," has built up an enormous extended family.

Aubespin, 55, said it is necessary to encourage people of all ethnicities to enter journalism.

"In our multicultural society, in order to reach all the different groups, we must get people of all different races and backgrounds working in the newsroom."

A former president, vice president and regional director of the National Association of Black Journalists, Aubespin lectures at schools and gatherings across the country as an advocate of parity in the newspapers.

A native of Louisville, Aubespin finished high school at age 14, graduated from Tuskegee University at 18 and was teaching

full time at Central High by his 20th birthday. His first news-related job, five years later, was in the art department of Louisville's Courier-Journal, where he worked as a graphic designer.

During the 1968 Louisville riots, white reporters shunned the riot scenes for fear of being attacked. Knowing it was essential to have a correspondent in the thick of things, editors asked Aubespin, the only black staff member, to cover the story. He is the Courier-Journal's associate editor in charge of recruitment.

Aubespin said journalism has given him a "passport to ask questions"—a document that gives the bearer permission to "ask about things people don't want you to know about and look for things people don't want you to see."

While journalism is not the highest-paying profession, Uncle Merv said: "You may not make a million dollars being a journalist, but sometimes you'll sure feel like one."

Editors' critiques aid students in writing

By Binh Ly
Isamu Jordan
Jason Butler

Local journalism veterans Glen Bleske, Carol Dykers and Paul Brown edited stories for Rainbow students and shared their knowledge of the field throughout the three-week program.

Glen Bleske, 42, a second-year doctoral student and teacher at UNC-CH, volunteered because he is a strong believer in a diverse newsroom.

"We have a diverse society, and in order to function the media has to reflect the beliefs of the people. Without diversity in the news there is abomination, journalism is based on truth, and truth demands news to be diverse," said Bleske.

Bleske became interested in journalism after watching "All the President's Men." He said although most people liked the movie because of the intensity of investigative reporting, he gained motivation from a different perspective.

"When I saw the movie, one scene steered my head to journalism, it gave me this amazing revelation—a person can actually get paid to talk to people and write about their experiences," said Bleske

Bleske graduated from the University of Florida in 1981. During his 10 years experience in environmental reporting and editing, he has won state and national awards for feature writing, editorials, in-depth writing and layout.

He said he feels his role in the Rainbow Institute is to help get students' minds directed into the field of journalism, as well as paint the picture of how he perceives it.

Bleske leaves prospective journalists with six words of advice: "Read, read, read, write, write, write."

Carol Dykers revels in curiosity—one of the most important characteristics of a good journalist. She also has ideas about what journalism should be like in the future. These two attributes, combined with 20 years of journalism experience, are pushing her toward a Ph.D. and a career in journalism education.

Born on the North Carolina coast and raised all over America [Dykers's father was a Marine Corps officer], she has seen all parts of the country. She discovered which place was her favorite when she was living in Texas in 1977. "I missed the Carolinas so much," she said. So she came back.

See EDITORS, page 5