

TODD STEVEN BURROUGHS, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.- Mass Communication, 2001, Philip Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland, College Park

Dissertation: *Drums in the Global Village: Toward an Ideological History of Black Media*

Abstract: Black media have entered a new era during the past two decades. Developments in American mass media from 1980 to 2000 have created new opportunities for African-Americans to create and sustain national and international forums for news and information from their worldview. Three areas in particular are: (1) the growth of cable television, (2) radio's shift back to a national medium through increased program syndication and corporate mergers, and (3) the promise of media convergence through the World Wide Web. This dissertation constructs an ideological history of Black media between 1827 and 2000 using six case studies focusing on select Black media institutions and forums in New York City and Washington, D.C., including Black-owned and White-owned broadcast forums targeted to Black communities. The case studies prove that Black-oriented media serve particular functions outside of the larger realm of Black participation in White mainstream media, and that there now exist Black media forums that can reach large portions of the nation's estimated 35 million African-Americans.

M.A.- Journalism, 1994, Philip Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland, College Park

Public Affairs Reporting track: Served as Maryland statehouse correspondent for Capital News Service, a university-run news service serving The Washington Post, The Washington Times, and more than 10 daily and weekly newspapers in Maryland.

B.A.- Mass Communication, 1989, College of Arts and Sciences, Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J.

Double-concentration in print and broadcast journalism

AWARDS

Honorable Mention, American Journalism Historians Association Doctoral Dissertation Prize Competition, 2002

Fellowship, Xerona Clayton Black Press, 2000

Grant Recipient, UMCP Committee On Africa And The Americas, 2000

Fellowship, Knight-Ridder Minority Public Affairs, 1992-1993

Scholarship, Martin Luther King (four-year renewable), 1985-1989

EXPERIENCE IN BRIEF

Writer and Researcher

Associate Producer, “Changing Media” (now called “A Moment With...”) University of Maryland Television, 2005-present

Provided research for host of, and booked guests for, award-winning television program on media issues. Program airs weekly received in more than 500,000 American homes in the Washington metropolitan area via Comcast Cable, and nationally on the Research Channel and overseas via WorldNet. Previous guests have included CNN’s Wolf Blitzer, ABC’s Sam Donaldson and Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Clarence Page. Host: Lee Thornton, former CBS White House Correspondent. Also served as UMCP production coordinator for station productions and booking agent for “That’s The Point!”, a public affairs program hosted by UMCP students.

Writing and Research Consultant, self employed, 1992-present

Wrote journalistic articles for newspapers (The New York Amsterdam News), magazines (The Crisis, ColorLines, POZ, The Source), and websites (The Black World Today, BlackAmericaWeb, BlackPressUSA, Africana.com). Author of book chapters. Prepared research notebooks. Researched assorted historical subjects for nationally broadcast documentary projects, corporate endeavors, national history exhibit, and more. Served clients in both private sector and not-for-profit organizations. Served as creative catalyst with emphasis on content development. Located fine historical data; identified sources that led to new ideas; synthesized broad material into succinct and usable form.

News Management and Reporter, NNPA (National Newspaper Publishers Association) News Service, 1992-2002

Started as a Contributing Columnist, grew into News Editor and National Correspondent for this Washington, D.C.-based wire service and portal website [BlackPressUSA.com], providing news and feature stories to 200 Black daily and weekly newspapers in 38 states. The collective readership of the NNPA’s newspapers totals 13 million.

Researcher, National Council of Churches, New York City, 1996

Member of Research Department of NCC’s Burned Churches Project, designed to investigate the rash of burned Black churches in the South. Assisted Department Head in various Project tasks.

Writer-Researcher, Communication Department, National NAACP, 1993-1994

Wrote drafts of speeches for NAACP Executive Director; wrote for nationally distributed NAACP newsletter and The Crisis magazine, the national NAACP’s organ. Wrote press releases for national media. Assisted national public relations campaigns as support staff.

Reporter, The (Newark, N.J.) Star-Ledger, 1989-1992

General Assignment Reporter. Identified, researched and reported hard news and feature stories for 400,000-daily, 700,000-Sunday newspaper. Covered police activity, elementary and secondary education, city hall, and urban issues.

Freelance Reporter, The New Jersey Afro-American, 1985-1988

General Assignment Reporter. Initiated, developed and reported hard news and feature stories for this 4,000-circulation weekly newspaper directed at the African-American community in Essex County, N.J. Issues covered include anti-apartheid protests, King Day celebrations and a three-part series (including Op-Ed piece) on homelessness in Newark.

Educator

Adjunct Professor, John H. Johnson School of Communications, Howard University, Washington, D.C., (Fall 2005 and Spring 2006)

Taught one section of "Multicultural Media History", a three-credit course designed for upper-class undergraduates; lectured and worked with undergraduates.

Adjunct Professor, Philip Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland, College Park, 1998

Taught two sections of 200-level News Writing course; lectured and worked with undergraduates.

Adjunct Professor, College of Arts and Sciences, Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J., 1997

Afro-American Studies and Communication departments. Taught 200-level News Writing and Mass Media and Minorities to undergraduates.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- 2006 *In Prison My Whole Life*. Research Director for a documentary feature film centering on the life and case of death row writer Mumia Abu-Jamal. The filmmakers plan to screen it at the Cannes Film Festival in 2007
- 2006 Consultant to Open Society Institute's "Cracked Justice" campaign (continued from 2005)
- 2004 *Omar and Pete*. Provided primary research for Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Tod Lending for forthcoming nationally broadcast PBS documentary.
- 2004 Editorial Assistant/Consultant, Teaching For Change, Washington, D.C. Provided writing, consulting and editing assistance for the book, Putting The Movement Back Into Civil Rights Teaching, published by the national non-profit organization in conjunction with the Poverty & Race Research Council.
- 2003 Researcher for The History Factory, a Chantilly, Va. company serving Fortune 500 corporations.

- 2002 *AIDS at 21*. Research Director for documentary about AIDS in the Black community for Gene Davis Productions/D.L. Lynes Productions. Aired on Discovery-Health Channel on World AIDS Day.
- 2002 *Rising Above Jim Crow: The Paintings of Johnnie Lee Gray*. Writer/researcher for The History Factory of Chantilly, Va. Developed historical concept and wrote text for this special exhibit sponsored by New York Life in conjunction with the PBS television documentary series *The Rise And Fall Of Jim Crow*.
- 2002 National Visionary Leadership Project, Washington, D.C. Provided primary and secondary source research for interviews with nationally known African American business, political and cultural leaders.
- 2002 *The Perilous Fight: America's World War II In Color*. Provided primary research for nationally broadcast PBS documentary produced by KCTS-TV in Seattle, Washington.
- 1999 *Walk A Mile In My Shoes: The 80-Year History of the NAACP*. Provided primary and secondary source research for commercial television documentary on the National NAACP; broadcast nationwide on NBC owned-and-operated television stations.

PUBLICATIONS/CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2007 Author. "The Activist And The Disc Journalist: Georgie Woods ('The Man With The Goods'), Cecil B. Moore, Black Radio and 'Black Media Function' in Philadelphia, 1964-1970," In Alice A. Tait and Arthur Hayes (Eds.) Essays on African-American Media (Lewiston, New York and Ceredigion, U.K.: The Edwin Mellen Press) (*forthcoming in 2008*).
- Journal article co-author with Jared. A. Ball. "All Things Considered?": National Public Radio and Mumia Abu-Jamal" (*forthcoming in 2008*).
- 2006 Author. 25,000 Words Worth of Entries, including "Mumia Abu-Jamal," "Johnson Publishing," "Ebony magazine," "Jet magazine," "Robert L. Vann," "Associated Negro Press" for Encyclopedia of African-American History, 1896-Present, From Age of Segregation to the 21st Century ; "Wilbert Rideau" Entry for African American National Biography (New York: Oxford University Press) (*forthcoming in 2007*).
- Contributing Writer. The Fifties Chronicle (Lincolnwood, Ill.: Legacy Publishing/Publications International).
 - Co-Author. "Afrocentric/Capitalistic Television: The Power, Paradox And Promise Of BET, 1979-2005," with Alice A. Tait and John T. Barber, for Book One of Tait and Guy Meiss' (Eds.) Ethnic Media In America book series (Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt).
- 2005 Author. "Hunter S. Thompson" entry for Encyclopedia of American Journalism (New York and London: Routledge) (*forthcoming in 2007*).
- Author. "Drums In The Global Village: Gatekeeping And Agenda-Setting By Afrocentric Radio Broadcasters, 1980-2004," for Book Two of Alice A. Tait and

- Guy Meiss' (Eds.) Ethnic Media In America book series (Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt).
- 2004 ColorLines essay "Between Baby Boomers And Russell Simmons" excerpted as "Where Is The Activism Of The Hip-Hop Generation?" in Deborah Menkhart, Alana Murray and Jenice View's (Eds.) Putting The Movement Back Into Civil Rights Teaching (Washington, D.C.: Poverty & Race Research Action Council/Teaching For Change).
- Author. "John H. Sengstacke" entry for American National Biography (New York: Oxford University Press).
 - Primary Author (One of Four). Civil Rights Chronicle (Lincolnwood, Ill.: Legacy Publishing/Publications International), 2003 [**Lead Author: Dr. Clayborne Carson, director, Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project, Stanford University; Foreword by Myrlie Evers-Williams, former National NAACP chairwoman and widow of martyred Civil Rights Movement leader Medgar Evers**].
- 2003 Co-Author. "Black Journalism Enters the Twentieth Century," with Dr. Alice A. Tait and the late Roland E. Wolseley. Revised and corrected version of the third chapter of the second edition of Roland E. Wolseley's The Black Press, USA (Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University, 1990). In Literary Criticism Series Movements and Themes: Harlem Renaissance, Vol. 1 (LCSHR1) (Farmington Hills, Michigan: Gale Group).
- 2002 Co-Author. "Mixed Signals: Race and the Media," with Alice A. Tait, for Herb Boyd's (ed.) Race and Resistance: African Americans in the Twenty-First Century (Cambridge: South End Press) [**Other contributors include: Angela Davis, Amiri Baraka, Ron Daniels, Sonia Sanchez, Manning Marable and bell hooks**].
- 2000 Author. "Old Voices, New Drums," In Alice A. Tait and John T. Barber (eds.), The Information Society And The Black Community (Westport, Conn: Praeger).
- 1995 Author. "Maverick: An Interpretative History of The People's Voice." Conference paper presented at the 1995 Mid-Atlantic Graduate Communication Conference, April 1-2, 1995, University of Maryland, College Park.

CANDIDACIES:

Fulbright Senior Specialist Program (2002-2007)

References available upon request

TODD STEVEN BURROUGHS, Ph.D.

Todd Steven Burroughs is a journalist with more than 20 years of experience in mass media.

He has written for magazines such as *The Source*, *ColorLines*, *Black Issues Book Review* and *The Crisis*, websites such as *Africana.com*, newspapers such as *The New York Amsterdam News* and *The* (Newark, N.J.) *Star-Ledger*, and for wire services such as The NNPA News Service, Capital News Service (of the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism) and the Knight-Ridder Wire. He began his career as a correspondent for The New Jersey edition of *The Afro-American* newspaper chain in 1985.

Burroughs, 39, is a former National Correspondent and News Editor of the NNPA News Service (nnpa.org; *BlackPressUSA.com*). His media criticism column, "Drums In The Global Village," was syndicated to about 200 Black newspapers for much of the 1990s. A separate version of the column was published on *The Black World Today* (www.tbwt.org), a Black Internet news site, in 1999.

Burroughs, a Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism, is a lifelong student of the history of Black media. He is one of four primary authors of the book *Civil Rights Chronicle* (Legacy Publishing/Publications International). He is writing a journalistic biography of Death Row journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal.