

Earnest L. Perry, Jr., Texas Christian University, "Voice of Consciousness: The Negro Newspaper Publishers Association During World War II"

This study examines how the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association promoted and supported the United States during World War II while at the same time, pushing for racial equality. The NNPA's dual victory strategy attempted to force the dominant culture to change its discriminatory practices. As a major institution in African American society, the African American press was instrumental in presenting and disseminating the views of African Americans throughout the country. The various Double V campaigns also helped many African Americans deal with the double-consciousness or "two-ness" of being a second-class race in America during World War II. This strategy also provided a bridge between the Negro consciousness, which wanted to fight for equality, and the patriotic American consciousness, which wanted to fully support the country's war effort. The same double-consciousness can be seen today in the inner struggle of successful African Americans who face the paradox of discrimination and subtle racism from the dominant culture and a feeling of disenfranchisement from African Americans who have not "made it." They live and work in a country where they are judged by two separate standards from two different cultures.

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Nora Hall, "On Being an African-American Woman: Gender and Race in the Writings of Six Black Women Journalists, 1849-1936"

Director: Hazel Dicken-Garcia, University of Minnesota

HONORABLE MENTION AWARDS

James B. McPherson, "From 'Military Propagandist' to the Progressive: The Editorial Evolution of H-Bomb Battler Samuel H. Day, Jr."

Director: Mary Cronin Lamonica, Washington State University

Jim Mueller, "Sun Sawed in Half: The Brief Life of Ralph Ingersoll's St. Louis Newspaper"

Director: Marvin Olasky, University of Texas at Austin

Earnest L. Perry, Jr., "Voice of Consciousness: The Negro Newspaper Publishers Association During World War II"

Director: George Kennedy, Univ. of Missouri - Columbia

ABSTRACTS

Nora Hall, "On Being an African-American Woman: Gender and Race in the Writings of Six Black Women Journalists, 1849-1936"

This dissertation explores how six nineteenth-century black women journalists constructed in their writings what it meant to be an African American woman. The six journalists are Mary Ann Shadd Cary (1823–1893); Charlotte L. Forten Grimke (1837–1914); Josephine St.

Pierre Ruffin (1842–1924); Gertrude Bustill Mossell (1855–1948); Victoria Earle Matthews (1861–1907); and Ida B. Wells Barnett (1862–1931). The women were among the first African Americans to write, edit, and own periodicals in the period 1849 to 1936. Their writings appeared in approximately ninety-one periodicals in the United States, Canada, and England. The women are best known for news reports, opinion, and other nonfiction writing that championed civil rights for women and blacks and reported issues of interest to African American women. The dissertation follows the women's careers from their first exposure to journalism and examines connections between their writings and their experiences in mainstream society and in African American communities. The women's reporting, writing themes, status in society, relationships with societal institutions, and their perspectives on community responsibility are examined. The collective meaning of their combined writings is explored, as are the roles that mainstream and black institutions played in defining the role of nineteenth century African American women.

James B. McPherson, Peace College, "From 'Military Propagandist' to the Progressive: The Editorial Evolution of H-Bomb Battler Samuel H. Day, Jr."

This dissertation, the culmination of an interdisciplinary doctoral program that combined methodology, coursework and committee members from communication, history and political science, chronicles the life of Samuel Day, Jr., and compares his work to what media scholar Paula Shoemaker suggests about influences on media content. Day's body of work provided a means of testing whether Shoemaker's hierarchical theory seems to fit the individual reporter. In Day's case, at least, it did not—but this study suggests that Shoemaker's model may indicate whether a publication or reporter will succeed in the long run, if not what actions they might take in specific cases. Day evolved from what he later described as a "good military propagandist" to a decidedly left-wing editor. His most famous contribution to journalism history was as editor of the Progressive, where he probably was the one most responsible for that publication's 1979 federal court fight over publication of an article about the H-Bomb. This dissertation discusses how Day's evolution reflected or departed from what Shoemaker might have predicted. It attempts to determine what shaped the journalistic work of a man who became increasingly political—in fact, too political to continue the work.

Jim Mueller, Pittsburg State University, "Sun Sawed in Half: The Brief Life of Ralph Ingersoll's St. Louis Newspaper"

This dissertation is a history of the St. Louis Sun, a tabloid daily newspaper that was published from September 1989 to April 1990. The Sun is significant because it was the last major attempt in the United States to launch a metropolitan daily newspaper against established competition. The Sun's dramatic failure has been cited by many in the newspaper industry as proof that such startups cannot succeed. A variety of sources, including interviews with the major participants and company records, were used in researching this dissertation. The main reason for the Sun's failure was an inadequate circulation distribution system that alienated subscribers in the paper's crucial first few months of life. The paper also failed to provide content significantly different from its competition in areas like local news and conservative commentary. The author concluded that the Sun had so many problems in both content and business operations that it cannot serve as support for the newspaper industry cliché that most American cities can only support one daily newspaper.