

TO: Patrick Riley/Chair NABJ Arts & Entertainment Task Force
FR: Greg Dunmore/Co Chair NABJ Arts & Entertainment Task Force
RE: Selection/Nomination of Legacy Award Recipient 2010

Fellow NABJ member **Clarence Waldron** is the Dean of African American Entertainment Journalists. He has covered our entertainment scene as the consummate professional for over 30 years (with 28 years and still counting at Jet Magazine!) Moreover, one would be hard pressed to name another entertainment journalist who has covered the national scene for the African American community with a loyal readership that speaks to America on a weekly basis (who is still currently reporting/editing) longer than Jet Magazine's Clarence Waldron. To ask: Who has he interviewed? would not be the appropriate question over—Who *hasn't* he interviewed?

Also, Jet Magazine as an important vehicle for Black entertainers for over 50 (first published in November 1951) years to receive the national spotlight should be applauded.

Our ongoing honor to such beacons of excellence within our beat makes the Legacy Award an Extra Special salute. The NABJ Arts & Entertainment Task Force would once again be giving a long overdue and most worthy acknowledgement. And, no one is truly more deserving of our accolades and respect than the achievements of Jet's Magazine's Senior Staff Editor Clarence Waldron!

Sincerely,

Greg (Dunmore)
Co Chair/NABJ A&E Task Force
(313) 399-4248

The following are 10 things about Clarence that should add to his glory!

1. Go to man at JET. If you want to be in JET or want to know anything about JET, you must go through Waldron
2. Wrote Minister Louis Farrakhan's first JET cover story . It was by far, Waldron's most challenging interview. Farrakhan loved the story and has insisted that only Waldron interview him from EBONY/JET ever since. He gave Waldron the exclusive interview about his near death battle with prostate cancer. Other media outlets followed the JET story. But Farrakhan gave it to Waldron first.
3. Eartha Kitt's last print interview was with EBONY, written by Waldron. She told him during that conversation: "Clarence, you understand me. You understand me and who Eartha Kitt is."She shared for the first time, her only regret---when she hung up on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., by mistake. She thought it was a crank call, but he was calling her to congratulate her on the stance she took with Lady Bird Johnson at the White House in 1968.
4. Dedicated journalism instructor for 12 years at Northwestern University and in the last three years, also taught at Columbia College Chicago,
5. Was a judge at Miss America in 1992
6. Graduate of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and Columbia University's Columbia College
7. His first published interview was with Dionne Warwick when Waldron was a senior at Columbia. That interview helped him get a fellowship to Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.
8. His favorite interview subjects include: Aretha Franklin, Nancy Wilson, Dionne Warwick, Frankie Beverly, Maya Angelou, Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson, Cathy Hughes, Louis Farrakhan, Erykah Badu and Tavis Smiley. Why? They always have something thoughtful or profound to say. Enjoys close professional relationships with all of them. They want to talk to Clarence Waldron; he's their writer of choice.
9. Has followed the advice and example of JET and EBONY founder, John H. Johnson and EBONY Executive Editor Robert E. Johnson. Treat everyone with respect and kindness ---from struggling, aspiring artists to the superstars and legends. You never know who is going to become the next big thing. Be kind to everyone. Encourage them in your work.
10. His life philosophy comes from the old Billie Holiday song, God Bless the Child (That's Got His Own). That tune has motivated Waldron to work hard and create a productive life for himself. He often encourages young people to work hard, get an education and learn how to take care of themselves. Don't expect anything from anyone. Get your own. A good education is the one thing that no one can take away from you, he believes.

CLARENCE WALDRON

Clarence Waldron is the award-winning senior writer of JET Magazine, specializing in arts and entertainment, education and human rights. He has interviewed and written compelling stories on many of today's top pop culture icons including Aretha Franklin, Tony Bennett, Maya Angelou and Whitney Houston; human rights activists Minister Louis Farrakhan, Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton and scholars Henry Louis Gates, Cornel West and Michael Eric Dyson.

He is celebrating his 28th year with JET and has developed a trust fund with his readers, newsmakers and colleagues. They know what to expect from Clarence Waldron. His reporting is consistently accurate, balanced and thorough. He has developed professional relationships with leading newsmakers and they tend to open up and give Waldron information that other publications don't get. He is the 'go to guy' at JET. If you want to be in JET or have a question about JET, you must go through Waldron.

Waldron also is a veteran journalism professor at Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism, where he launched his adjunct teaching career in 1998. He also teaches at Columbia College Chicago. He wants students to understand and respect Joseph Pulitzer's first rule of journalism: accuracy, accuracy, accuracy. His Northwestern students have gone on to work at the New York Times, Boston Globe, People magazine and The Oprah Winfrey Show. They all thank him for the foundation of excellence he provided.

Waldron holds a master's in journalism from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and a bachelor's in English Literature from Columbia College of Columbia University in New York.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1982-Present** **JOHNSON PUBLISHING CO., CHICAGO, IL**
- 1996-Present** **SENIOR STAFF EDITOR**
JET MAGAZINE
- Senior writer/reporter specializing in the arts, law and justice and education. Duties include meeting on a regular basis with managing editors and editorial staff to determine the news direction of the magazine.
- Features Editor, Jet (1996-2005)
Associate Editor, Jet (1986-1996)
Assistant Editor, Jet (1982-1986)
Contributing Editor, EM (Ebony Man Magazine)
Freelance Writer, Ebony
- Previous positions:*
- Fall 2007-Present** **COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO**
- ADJUNCT LECTURER**
- Teach the basics of reporting and writing with emphasis placed on news judgment, interviewing, accuracy, fairness, inclusiveness and meeting deadlines.
- Fall 1998-Present** **NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY/MEDILL SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM, EVANSTON, IL**
- ADJUNCT LECTURER**
- Teach basic journalistic values and style, language skills news judgment, writing of hard news, feature writing and the Internet as a research tool.
- Fall 1999** **LOYOLA UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO, IL**
- ADJUNCT LECTURER**
- Taught "Reporting and Writing." Introduced students to the basic elements of media reporting and writing, with emphasis on developing new judgment, finding and verifying information, learning effective interviewing skills, meeting deadlines and learning how to write clearly and concisely.
- 1980-1982** **THE PRESS, ATLANTIC CITY, NJ**
- GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTER**
- Covered various aspects of the Atlantic City community

EDUCATION

Columbia University, New York, NY
 Graduate School of Journalism, M.S., Degree, 1980

RCA/NBC Fellowship in Journalism

Columbia College of Columbia University, New York, NY
 B.A. Degree, English Literature, 1979

AWARDS, HONORS, ACTIVITIES

Recruiter for Columbia University	1994- Present
Member, National Association of Black Journalists	
National Council on Crime and Delinquency PASS Award for feature story, "Why Are So Many Children Committing Murder?"	1998
Legacy Award/Warner, Elektra, Atlantic Records	1996
Golden Quill Award, "Best Feature Story of 1981" (Living In A World of Shadows): a three part series on the homeless/Atlantic City Press Club	1982
Judge, Miss America Pageant, Atlantic City, NJ	1992
