



Spotlights on the Racial Frontier

Alert Angles, Deep Digging Make Familiar Themes Fresh from “Let’s Do It Better,” The Columbia Workshop on Journalism, Race & Ethnicity, June 9–11, 2000

A druggist shoots a robber to death; a university struggles with affirmative action; a school strives to raise academic performance. In the realm of race and ethnicity, those are familiar story lines. But each of the tales had an unusual twist when three workshop honorees— one from a newspaper and two from television presented their distinctive work, under scoring how strong storytelling can illuminate the frontiers of race and culture.

In the dramatic drugstore killing, Angelo Henderson, a Wall Street Journal reporter, turned what had been a brief Detroit crime story into a wrenching, 1999 Pulitzer Prize-winning narrative. He relentlessly wove together the life of a young black man who had decided to rob a pharmacy and the life of an older white pharmacist who killed him with a single gunshot.



