



THE ROBERT F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL

CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS • NATIONAL YOUTH PROJECT
BOOK AWARD • HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD • JOURNALISM AWARD

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38th RFK Journalism Awards Announced

Washington, D.C. – Journalists in nine professional and student categories have been selected for the 38th Annual Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards.

All recipients of the 38th Annual Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards will be honored at a ceremony on Thursday, May 25, 2006 at 6:00 PM at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Grand Prize honors go to domestic television winners Karen O'Connor and Miri Navasky of *FRONTLINE*/WGBH on PBS for the program "The New Asylums." *FRONTLINE* takes a disturbing and poignant look at a troubling question: have America's jails and prisons become its new asylums? Currently fewer than 55,000 Americans receive treatment at psychiatric hospitals, yet nearly ten times as many individuals are mentally ill and serving time in jail or prison. The RFK Television Judges write, "Frontline's cameras make us part of the experiences of the mentally ill in prison. We witness the prisoners' hopelessness, their struggles, and their small victories. Anyone who sees this piece cannot help but come away both disturbed and provoked."

Other winners of the 38th Annual RFK Journalism Awards include:

Domestic Print Winner: "A Cloud over Florida: Hidden Pesticide Problems" by John Lantigua, Christine Evans and Christine Stapleton of *The Palm Beach Post* is a compelling series about the impact of the powerful agricultural industry on Florida's migrant farm workers. The RFK Print Judges note, "In our litigious society, it is an act of courage to publicly take on wealthy corporations. By documenting the agriculture industry's active abuse of its least powerful employees, *The Palm Beach Post* upheld the highest standard of investigative journalism."

International Print Winner: "Pipeline of Peril" by Cam Simpson of the *Chicago Tribune* is a compelling human rights piece about the immoral international human trafficking game and the innocent, opportunistic victims who get caught in its trap. The RFK Print Judges write, "This series puts a human face on a complicated story. Mr. Simpson compiled and presented evidence of grotesque human rights violations undertaken by a U.S. company in the name of the U.S. war effort in Iraq. Mr. Simpson's series brilliantly highlighted the abuse suffered by people made powerless."

Domestic Photo Winner: “No Place for Children: Voices from Juvenile Detention” by Steve Liss of *Time Magazine* captures the emotions of the children residing in the Webb County Juvenile Detention in Laredo, Texas. The RFK Photography Judges remark, “The abuse, addiction and neglect Liss photographed play a large part in the lives of those incarcerated children and cry out for solutions. “

International Radio Winner: “The Price of African Oil” by Steve Inskip **Jim Wallace, Bruce Auster, Kimberly Jones of National Public Radio** investigates the Niger River Delta, where one of the world’s most lucrative industries has existed alongside some of the world’s poorest people for half a century. The RFK Radio Judges comment, “Steve Inskip certainly deals with a significant social problem in that country, that of extreme poverty in the face of national oil riches. There’s a lesson here for Americans who depend on the oil industry and how events very far away affect our lives every day.”

Cartoon Winner: “The City” by **John Backderf** is a courageous editorial cartoon that pushes the boundaries of societal institutions. The RFK Cartoon Judges comment, “Derf aggressively attacks the institutions, ideologies and attitudes that create an environment for the continuing oppression and exploitation of the powerless. His outrage is directed not just at the cynicism and hypocrisy of the powerful but at the complicity of all of us who remain docile and passive subjects.”

College Print Winner: “I don’t want to be a guy” by **Kara Couch of Somerset Community College** is a compelling glimpse into the life of a student caught between the sexual identity he was born with and the one she believes represents her true self. RFK Judges Barbara Hines and John Watson write “It is a gutsy story with twists and turns that the reporter has handled in a straightforward manner.”

High School Print Winner: ““Super Senior” by **Samantha Offerdahl of Century High School in Bismarck, ND**, captures the resolve of John Brown, a 19 year old high school student determined to overcome a lifetime of adversity in order to walk through graduation with his class, and the community who rallied behind him to support his ambitions.

High School Broadcast Winner: “Not Bad Kids” by **Aliy Bossert and Kevin McMillan of Roane County High School in Spencer, WV** profiles the emotional, mental and physical tribulations that are incurred by children forced to grow up as part of the United States foster care system.

The Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards were founded in 1968 by a group of journalists who covered Senator Robert F. Kennedy’s last campaign. In creating the awards, they sought to encourage outstanding reporting on those issues that were of utmost concern to the Senator. Dedicated to Robert and Ethel’s youngest child Rory, the awards are judged each year by over 50 members of the working press. A committee of six journalists oversees the judging process and is responsible for the selection of the grand prize winner. In its 38th year, the RFK journalism awards program has exceeded the expectations of its original founders, now standing as the largest program of its kind and one of the few in which the honorees are judged solely by their peers.