

Writer speaks at UNL

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

Renowned journalist Roger Rosenblatt has tackled some difficult stories in his day. From the peaceful rivers of Rwanda to the country's rioting war zones, his essays have documented the times. Today, as he begins to write an essay for Time magazine about the racial struggles stirred by the O.J. Simpson trial, he will consider the thoughts he collected from a sample of UNL students.

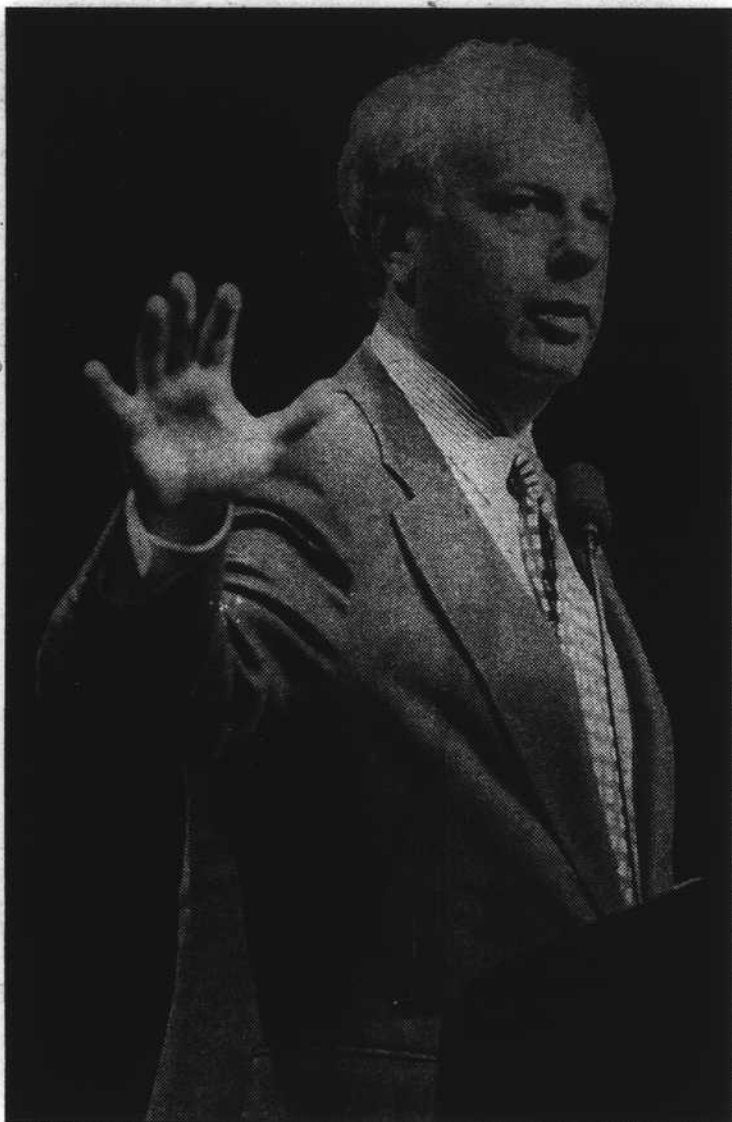
"I find this an enormously and increasingly difficult task," Rosenblatt told an audience at the Lied Center for Performing Arts. "Do we in fact live in two countries? It certainly seems so. At least two countries of perception."

Rosenblatt, the editor-in-chief of the Columbia Journalism Review, spoke Thursday during the opening lecture of the eighth-annual E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues. He spoke to a group of University of Nebraska-Lincoln students about their impressions of the Simpson trial aftermath.

"I thought I would take advantage of being in a different part of the country," Rosenblatt said in an interview after his speech. "Students here have the same range of reaction."

Rosenblatt writes essays for The New York Times Magazine, Vanity Fair, The New Republic and often appears on the MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour on PBS. He has been an editor of U.S. News & World Report and Life magazine.

The award-winning writer spoke to the audience of students and academics in a soothing, deep, storytelling voice. Laughter from his one-line jokes often broke the silence of the Lied Center during his 80-minute lecture.



Tanna Kinnaman/DN

Roger Rosenblatt, editor-in-chief of Columbia Journalism Review, speaks Thursday at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Rosenblatt spoke of the challenge in writing about life. Telling a story, he said, is much like following a winding river without an unknown end.

"I wonder if life isn't a tale, but the telling of the tale," Rosenblatt said, often not realizing the reason behind his work. "In the morning I write, in the evening I wonder why I do it."

He said he often wrote about his Grammercy Park neighborhood in New York City. The writing isn't published, he said, but it frames

his thoughts and focuses his life.

"Why write? To make a connection about people with people," he said. "Why write? Because you see people at their worst. And because you see people at their best."

Rosenblatt said by probing deep into the thoughts and reactions of major events — like the Simpson trial — we learn more about ourselves.

"If you don't explore the reactions, we will never live in a better society."

Few women hold on to maiden names

By Cory Waltemath
Staff Reporter

What's in a name? The Bureau of Sociological Research recently conducted a survey to find out the factors people consider when choosing a name.

David Johnson, a UNL sociology professor, conducted the survey with his wife. Many sociologists have called the survey the most in depth of its kind, Johnson said, and has yielded many interesting results.

The survey of more than 600 people showed only 1 to 2 percent of married women had nontraditional names, such as hyphenated names or their maiden names. That number was four to five times higher in the southern states than in Nebraska.

The study also showed that the number of women keeping their maiden name had changed little in 20 years. Research showed nine out of 10 UNL women planned to change their names if and when they decided to get married.

Johnson's poll also found some groups of women were more likely to keep their maiden names than others. For example, older women and women who have already established their careers are more likely to keep their given names.

The results of the survey showed that marital traditions are still kept in Nebraska and other parts of the United States. Johnson's results were published in the August edition of the "Journal of Marriage and Family."



Travis Heying/DN

Peggy Sorensen's son, Eric, who died of AIDS in 1991, is now remembered with a section of the AIDS quilt. The quilt will be on display in Omaha Saturday and Sunday.

Quilt

Continued from Page 1

he said. The size represents the standard grave plot, he said.

Quilt organizers prefer that no rhinestones, sequins or sticky materials be put on the quilt pieces, he said,

because they damage other pieces.

The best way to get a piece added to the quilt, Wilson said, is to give it to organizers at a quilt display. The piece also can be mailed directly to the NAMES Project.

Wilson said people should not worry much about the design.

"Mainly, I just tell them to put love on it," he said.



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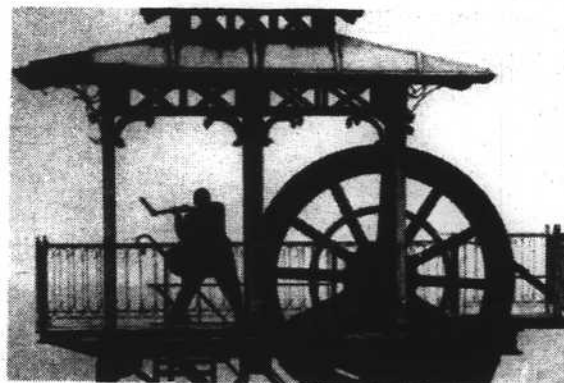
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