

JACK NEWFIELD (1938-2004)

Jack Newfield grew up poor and, from the age of four, fatherless in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood. It was, he once said, "the working-class Brooklyn of the Dodgers, Democrats, unions, optimism and pluralism."

He majored in English at Hunter College, graduating in 1960. His career in journalism began at the College when he served as sports editor of the *Hunter Arrow*.

By the mid-1960s, he was a reporter-columnist for *The Village Voice*, where he remained for 24 years. It was there that he pioneered a new kind of investigative journalism—a passionate advocacy of social causes and political reforms backed up by relentless digging for the facts. In an era when the objective school of journalism held sway, Newfield's outspoken and highly personal style of reporting made him a force not only in the city, but in the nation. His crusade to abolish the use of lead paint in tenement apartments, for example, resulted in a new city law—and safer homes for countless thousands of children.

After leaving *The Voice*, Newfield continued his investigative reporting for, successively, the *Daily*

News, the *New York Post* and the *New York Sun*. Throughout his 40-year career he was a mentor to dozens of younger journalists, always generous with his advice, encouragement and friendship.

Newfield was the author of 10 books, starting with *A Prophetic Minority*, an account of his days in the civil rights movement of the early 1960s. One title, *The Permanent Government*, became part of the nation's political vocabulary. Among the other books were *Robert Kennedy: A Memoir*, *City For Sale*, *Only in America: The Life and Crimes of Don King*, *The Full Rudy: The Man, the Myth and the Mania*, *The Education of Jack Newfield*, and *Somebody's Gotta Tell It: The Upeat Memoir of a Working-Class Journalist*.

In *The Education*, Newfield cited a contemporary description of the reformer Jacob Riis as the standard he had set for himself: "He not only got the news; he cared about the news. He hated passionately all tyrannies, abuses, miseries, and he fought them. He was a 'terror' to the officials and landlords responsible, as he saw it, for the desperate condition of the tenements, where the poor lived. He has 'exposed' them in articles, books, and public speeches, and with results." It was a standard Jack Newfield never failed to meet.

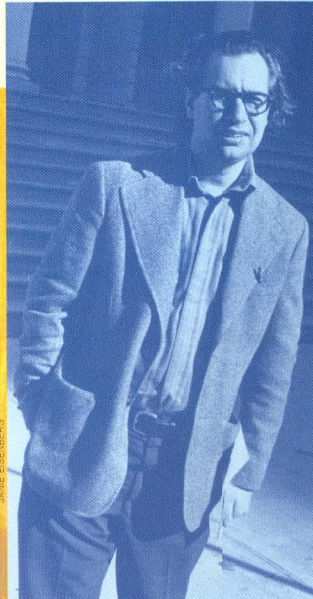


JOEY NEWFIELD



JANIE EISENBERG

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The goal of a Hunter College education is to encourage the fullest possible intellectual and personal growth in each student. While preparation for specific careers is an important objective of every academic program, the fundamental aim of the Hunter experience is to develop a student's rational, critical and creative powers. A Hunter education is intended to inspire a zest for learning and to instill the recognition that learning is pleasurable and knowledge is useful.

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JANIE EISENBERG

The **JACK NEWFIELD**
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at Hunter College

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JACK NEWFIELD Fund

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The
**JACK
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**CARRYING ON
THE TRADITION
OF A PASSIONATE
JOURNALIST**

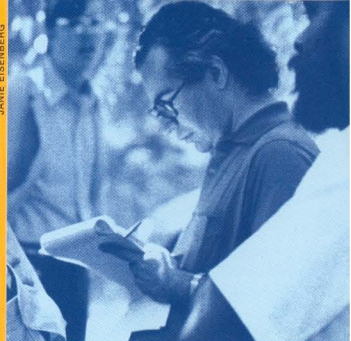
The Jack Newfield Visiting Professorship of Journalism at Hunter College has been created to honor the memory of one of America's greatest reporter-writers, the late Jack Newfield.

The program is designed to bring a distinguished journalist to Hunter College for one semester each year to teach, to lecture, to mentor students and to produce important public programs in Jack's honor.

The visiting professor's field of expertise will vary from year to year. One may be a top-flight investigative reporter. Another may be a renowned maker of documentary films. A third may be a sports reporter. Yet another may be an author of books on contemporary politics and culture. This latitude reflects the immense variety of Newfield's interests and the range of his extraordinary talents.

The unifying goal will be to keep alive the crusading, progressive brand of journalism that Jack Newfield always practiced—journalism dedicated, in the words of *The Village Voice*, to "chronicling the sins of New York's powerful judges, elected officials, landlords, boxing promoters, party hacks, developers, and the valor of some of the city's lesser-known residents."

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