

News and Features

Brown: Petite, creative, busy

**Mariacorazon Hill
Banner Reporter**

Her stature, petite. Creativity, immense. And busy.

Her newest work of art: *Crossing Over Jordan*, the story of four generations of women depicts the struggle to find self in the midst of the brutal effects of slavery.

She is Dr. Linda Beatrice Brown, Distinguished Professor of Humanities.

According to Brown, African American females can relate to *Crossing Over Jordan*.

"Women have families and are concerned with universal things such as marriage, childbirth, and the need to be strong because of the hatred perpetuated against our men," she said.

"We must look carefully at

racism in order to heal its wounds."

If one finds it hard to locate Brown, it's because she stays busy on a special assignment -- writing a book about her aunt, Willa B. Player. Brown is also busy guiding creative writing independent study projects.

During the ACES program on Jan 31, Brown shared excerpts from her book.

One character, Story, disowned by her mother said, "The closest I ever got to my parents was a heart sliced into."

"For years, never knowing that Hermine was her mother, Story cared for her in her illness. Later confronting Hermine on a tip, Story demands identity confirmation. Pain strikes as truth rears its ugly head.

During the program, the Bennett College Reader's Theatre performed a tribute for Brown.

"Two-hundred and ninety-five pages never before written," the group exalted. "Profound! Awesome! Profoundly awesome!," they continued.

"I liked the fact that it spanned so many generations," said Ursula Cobb, junior English major from New Jersey.

"It was intriguing to see how she changed the style to fit the different time periods. I definitely would like to get the book to add to my collection."

Brown is also the author of several other books, including *A Love Song to Black Men*, and *Poetry and Fiction in: A Living Culture in Durham*.

Symposium discusses women's roles in videos

**Stephanie McCorkle
Banner Editor**

Is it offensive for you to see half-naked women wandering aimlessly around in videos?

It should be.

The exploitation of women in music videos was the theme during the Sister/Friend Symposium "Selling Songs at What Price?: The Violations of Women's Bodies in Music Videos," on Feb. 27.

The centerpiece of the discussion was the video "Dreamworlds," a compilation of music videos depicting women in various roles.

Panelists Keith Bryant, SGA president at North Carolina A&T State University, Courtney Bell, senior psychology major, and Brian Wallace, program director for radio station WQMG shared their opinions about how female portrayals in music videos affect the corporate, political and social areas of life.

Wallace expressed strong

opinions about the subject.

"We (the general public) all are to blame because we buy the product," Wallace said.

"Unless you are an artist like Prince or a Janet Jackson, you have no control of what the video looks like. People sign a contract to do what they are told."

Bryant said that there were few black-owned radio stations, and that the problem did not lie with the program director but the companies in the big cities.

Bell said that self-image has a lot to do with how women feel when they see other women in videos. She illustrated her point by citing an example of a friend a struggling dancer who got a big break by being one of Prince's dancers.

Bell added that sleazy jobs can be a stepping-stone for those who are trying to get acting jobs, and that many of the people seen in those types of videos are now on sitcoms.

SNCAE helps students understand teaching profession

**Crystal Simenton
Banner Managing Editor**

Each department on campus has at least one student organization, and for the Education Department one stands out locally and nationally.

The Bennett College chapter of the Student North Carolina Association of Educators is a local division of the National Educators Association.

SNCAE strives to help students develop an understanding of the teaching profession, to gain a voice in their profession, and to forward the aim of quality education.

These goals are met through various activities. For example, the members attend local, state, national conferences and seminars and as paid members the students receive monthly news publications from the state and national chapters.

"By being a member, it helps them develop a deeper apprecia-

tion for their profession," said Dr. Alice Stone, director of the Education Division.

In addition, the organization has brought the North Carolina teacher of the year to Bennett to speak four years in a row. Through the organization members also meet several leaders in their field.

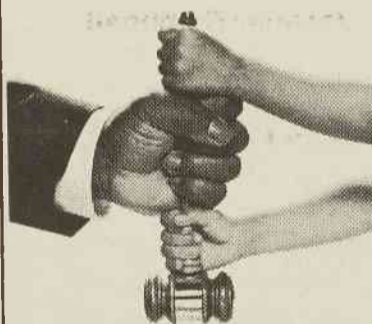
"It gives the chance to interact with master teachers such as the present teacher of the year," Stone said.

According to Donna Oliver, advisor of the organization the Bennett chapter of SNCAE serves as an influence to minorities.

"It is important that young black women choose education because our classrooms are becoming filled with ethnic minority children while teachers in the profession are predominantly white," Oliver said.

"This program gives the students a greater understanding for the teaching profession," Stone said.

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Campus Paperback Bestsellers

1. *Homicidal Psycho Jungle Cat*, by Bill Watterson. (Andrews & McMeel, \$12.95.) Latest Calvin and Hobbes collection.
2. *Disclosure*, by Michael Crichton. (Ballantine, \$6.99.) Sexual harassment in a West Coast electronics firm.
3. *Interview with the Vampire*, by Anne Rice. (Ballantine, \$6.99.) The novel that launched *The Vampire Chronicles*.
4. *The Shipping News*, by E. Annie Proulx. (Touchstone, \$12.00.) Newspaperman returns to his childhood home after death of his wife.
5. *The Vampire Lestat*, by Anne Rice. (Ballantine, \$6.99.) Mesmerizing story of a vampire now a rock star.
6. *Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now*, by Maya Angelou. (Bantam, \$5.50.) Collection of essays.
7. *The World Almanac And Book Of Facts 1995*, by Robert Faragher, Ed. (World Almanac/Funk & Wagnalls, \$8.95.)
8. *Seinlanguage*, by Jerry Seinfield. (Bantam, \$5.99.) Observations on life's pleasures and ordeals.
9. *The Curse Of Madame "C."*, by Gary Larson. (Andrews & McMeel, \$8.95.) Collection of "Far Side" cartoons.
10. *Chicken Soup For The Soul*, by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen. (Health Communications, \$12.00.) Stones for heart & spirit.

Compiled by The Chronicle of Higher Education from information supplied by college bookstores throughout the country, January 15, 1995.

New & Recommended

- Coffee Will Make You Black*, by April Sinclair. (Avon, \$10.00.) Heartwarming and funny novel about growing up African-American in 1960s Chicago.
- Little Book Of Big Motivation*, by Eric Jensen. (Fawcett, \$7.50.) Contains 180 strategies and encouragements to achieve your goals, follow your dreams, seize opportunity, and never settle for less than the best life has to offer.
- Zlata's Diary*, by Zlata Filipovic. (Penguin, \$7.95.) A moving and inspiring account of a childhood destroyed by war that puts a human face on an inhuman tragedy.

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Spring Break begins March 4.
Classes resume March 13.
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