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Gwendolyn Brooks to visit Meredith

by Dannie Ward

Gwendolyn Brooks, a contemporary black poet, will visit the Meredith campus on March 17th and 18th. Miss Brooks was born on June 7,

1917, and was raised in Chicago. Her first poem was published when she was thirteen, and she has enjoyed success ever since. In the 1940's, Miss Brooks' poems

received much recognition. She was awarded top prizes at two writers' conferences held in Chicago, the Guggenheim Fellowship for creative writing two years in a row, and a \$1000 grant in literature from the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

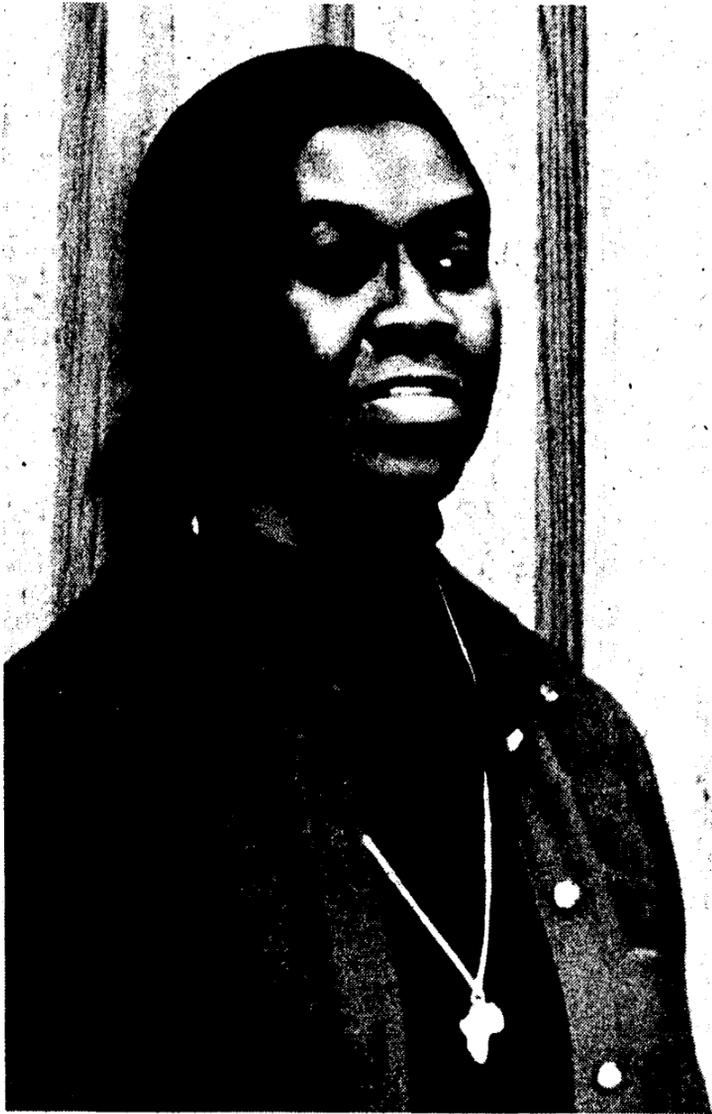
Her first book, *A Street in Bronzeville*, was published in 1945 and was cited for its passion, freshness, and sincerity. In 1949, *Annie Allen*, a sequence of poems tracing the life of a Bronzeville black girl from childhood to maturity, was published. During the next twenty years, she printed novels, children's books, and more volumes of poetry. The theme of these works centered on the neglected miracles that could be found in the everyday pains and disappointments of the blacks around her. In 1950, Gwendolyn Brooks, the first black woman ever awarded, received the Pulitzer Prize for *Annie Allen*, her second volume of poetry. The book was hailed by the critics and public alike as a masterpiece of contemporary poetry.

The turning point in Miss Brooks' career came when she attended a writers' conference in Tennessee in 1967; she was greatly influenced by the self-confidence, pride, and militancy of the young black writers present. Returning to Chicago with a new attitude emphasizing black self-reliance, she reflected this change in her next book, *In the Mecca*, through the militant and radical tone of the poems. These poems also attained a new movement and energy, intensity and richness that heretofore had not been seen in her poetry. Miss Brooks has continued to write and publish, consequently accumulating more honors. In 1968, she was chosen poet laureate for the state of Illinois. She received an appointment to the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1976 and is still a member. She has also received over forty honorary doctorates from colleges and universities including Skidmore, Duke and DePaul.

Gwendolyn Brooks' visit begins Wednesday night,

March 17th, at 6:00 with a dinner in the President's Dining Hall. Following the dinner, she will present a lecture in Carswell Concert Hall at 8:00. Thursday, March 18th, her schedule includes lunch in the President's Dining Hall at 12:30 p.m. and a creative writing-poetry workshop in Cate Center from 2:30-4:30. Reservations must be made for the dinner Wednesday night and the workshop by March 10th. Further information may be obtained from Dr. Jonathan Lindsey. The lecture on Wednesday night and the lunch on Thursday are open to Meredith students, who are encouraged to attend.

In preparation for Miss Brooks' visit, the Colton English Club is featuring a program to familiarize the students and faculty with the poems. The program is planned for the regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 4th at 5:00 p.m. in the Alumnae House. Interested students and faculty are invited to attend.



Gwendolyn Brooks
(Photo by The Contemporary Forum)

Fires discovered on campus

by Linda Sellers

Firefighters were called to the Meredith campus on Tuesday, February 16, to extinguish a blaze in a third floor restroom of Johnson Hall.

The fire, which caused approximately \$15,000 worth of damage, was just one in a series of six fires which occurred between 5 and 7 p.m. on Tuesday. All of the fires appear to have been set.

Three fires were discovered in Jones Auditorium. A student found a box of clothes smoking behind the stage on the second floor and extinguished them in a nearby bathroom. Curtains in the bathroom showed evidence of attempted arson. A curtain downstairs in a practice room also showed evidence of arson.

A trashcan beside a trash chute on the third floor of Stringfield was discovered ablaze by students who pushed it on the breezeway to extinguish it. Another fire was attempted in a trashcan in Belk Dining Hall, but was discovered before it got out of hand.

Besides the fire on the third floor of Johnson,

scorched toilet paper was also found in a ladies' restroom on the first floor.

Sunday morning, February 21, Vann Residence Hall was evacuated when a fire was discovered in the laundry room on fourth floor. Clothes on the ironing board had been set on fire as well as clothes hanging on the other side of the room.

In addition, two trashcan fires about three weeks ago "could be related" to the most recent fires, according to Bill Norton, Director of Information Services.

A \$10,000 reward has been offered by the N.C. Arson Awareness Council to anyone with information leading to the indictment of the arsonist(s).

Security has been tightened on the campus and students have begun "hall patrols" during the night hours.

Students are being asked to question and report any suspicious persons spotted on the halls or campus. Fire procedures have also been reviewed.

At presstime, police had no definite suspects in the investigation.

Alcoholism common today

by Linda Sellers

You are asleep. Suddenly you hear a loud noise in the hall, and your roommate bursts into the room laughing. You quietly get up and help her to bed, knowing that she will soon be in a drunken stupor. Could she be an alcoholic?

This scene is relatively common on college campuses around the country. Alcohol is becoming a seriously abused drug in today's American society. Why? What can we do about it?

According to an article by Josephine Novak of the Field News Service, alcohol is the largest single contributing

factor to death among teenagers. Alcoholism develops two to five times faster in young people than in adults because adolescence is an unstable period in which the maturity to drink responsibly is lacking.

What effect does alcohol have on the body? First, it enters the bloodstream and circulates throughout the body. Next, it reaches the brain beginning to alter judgement and body sensations. Last, it is broken down by the liver or eliminated through the lungs and kidneys.

There are five stages of intoxication: 1) happy, 2)

excited, 3) confused, 4) stupor, and 5) coma. It takes approximately one and a half hours for the alcohol from one drink to leave the body.

How do you know if you have a drinking problem? The following is a questionnaire on earlier stages of alcohol dependency:

1. Is the desire for a drink a frequent occurrence, the key word being "desire?"
2. Is there a need for a drink at a certain time of the day, the emphasis on "need?"
3. Is there anticipation of drinking in the evening, as the day wears on?

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Self-scheduled exams

The elimination of self-scheduling examinations has been discussed by the Instruction Committee at Meredith. Some professors, and perhaps students, feel there are disadvantages in the current system of allowing students in certain courses to decide upon their own time for taking an exam. A subcommittee of Student Life is studying the issue and needs input from students and professors. Please fill out the following questionnaire about self-scheduling exams. Remember that if you do not take part in this survey, you may lose your right to help make the decision on this issue. If you have questions or would like to take part in the subcommittee's study, please contact Lynda Smith (828-0015).

1. Have you ever taken or given a self-scheduled examination?
yes no
2. Do you feel self-scheduled exams should be continued?
yes no
3. Would you prefer to take, or if you are a professor, to give, a
self-scheduled exam pre-scheduled exam
4. Do you feel that self-scheduled exams are often abused by students?
yes no
If so, please explain.
5. List any reasons why you feel self-scheduled exams should be continued.
6. List any reasons why you feel self-scheduled exams should be abolished.
7. What changes, if any, should be made in the current examination system?

Please feel free to add any comments on a separate attached sheet.
Please return the questionnaire to the box in the cafeteria marked "Self-scheduled Exams."