

## Foe Of Racism

### James Baldwin Dies At 63

T. PAUL DE VENCE, FRANCE (AP) — Author James Baldwin, who became an articulate and sometimes angry voice decrying racism in the United States through his novels, plays and essays, died in the hilltop town on the Mediterranean where he took refuge "from the madness of America."

Baldwin, 63, died of stomach cancer on Monday night, his publisher said.

His best known works include "Go Tell It on the Mountain," his first novel, published in 1953; "Notes of a Native Son," "Evidence of Things Not Seen," and most recently, "Harlem Quartet."

France was Baldwin's adopted country and he lived here for 40 years, the last 16 in St. Paul de Vence. For the man who once urged blacks to go out and kill whites, France was "a refuge away from the madness of America."

"He couldn't stand the idea of filling in the blanks," Stein said, so he turned the questionnaire over and wrote an impromptu essay about his life. Stein said that essay became the first chapter of "Notes of a Native Son."

Small, wiry, witty and with a Gaelic zest for life, Baldwin was born on Aug. 2, 1924 in Harlem, the son of a preacher. The eldest of nine children, he grew up amid growing racial tensions, fear and hatred. His father ordained him as a minister when he was 12, but he later lost his faith.

As a student, Baldwin's teachers recognized his early talent and encouraged him to pursue his education and career in writing. He left for France in 1948 on a writing fellowship and wrote his first play "The Amen Corner."

"Go Tell It On The Mountain" recalled Baldwin's days as a teenage preacher in a store-front church.

"Mountain" is the book I had to write if I was ever going to write anything else," Baldwin said in a 1985 interview with The New York Times. "I had to deal with what hurt me most. I had to deal with my

father. He was my model; I learned a lot from him. Nobody's ever frightened me since."

His concern for blacks in the United States never wavered, although his advocacy of violence waned.

Baldwin said in 1983 that integration was a failure; that Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. probably died in vain; equal opportunity meant a "handful of niggers in the window," black-run cities were political ghettos dependent on state and federal power, and black people had better take care of themselves because "no one else is going to do it."

His last novel, "Harlem Quartet," published this year, was about life in the 1950s Harlem Jazz clubs.

In 1986, he published "Evidence of Things Not Seen," a book based on the slayings of 29 black children and young adults from 1979 to 1981 in Atlanta.

Baldwin called the book "the hardest thing I ever tried to write." In it he painfully came to terms with the kind of racial self-hatred that was believed to have motivated Wayne Williams, convicted of two of the killings.

Baldwin's stay in Atlanta marked his first major trip to the United States since 1957, when he left France during the Algerian war for independence and discovered Little Rock, Ark., his first major sojourn to the American South.

He took part in the early struggles for integration and was close friend and admirer of King and Malcolm X, militant black activist and author. Both King and Malcolm X were assassinated.

Despite failing health, Baldwin told friends he had not lost hope and planned to finish a book on King.

He said in one interview, "I don't feel despair, but I do feel a certain urgency. To me despair is silence, and I don't see how you can write out of silence."

Funeral services will be held in New York on Friday, said Bernard Hassalle, Baldwin's longtime companion and secretary.

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"Black people don't believe anything white people say anymore," Baldwin said in an interview with The Associated Press in 1983.

Baldwin's only French literary prize came posthumously. The Association for the Renewal of Franco-American Friendship on Tuesday awarded its first prize to Baldwin for his contribution to arts and letters, business and politics.

In 1986, President Francois Mitterrand named him to the Legion of Honor, France's highest honor. "Getting this award from the country that I adopted means France has adopted me," Baldwin later said.

Sol Stein, president of Stein & Day publishers, said his friendship with Baldwin dated to high school days in New York City. He said he was there when Baldwin received an author's biographical questionnaire from Alfred Knopf, publisher of "Go Tell It on the Mountain."

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PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI — A Haitian woman mourns the death of her husband, shot Nov. 26 by government troops in Port au Prince. Violence increased dramatically in the week before

Nov 29's presidential elections, with the streets of the capital strewn with bodies every morning. (UPI Photo)

### Helped Discover The North Pole

## Remains Of Matthew Henson To Be Moved To Arlington Cemetery

BALTIMORE (AP) — The body of Matthew Henson, who discovered the North Pole with Adm. Robert E. Peary, will be moved to Arlington National Cemetery more than 30 years after the black explorer's death.

President Reagan has approved the transfer of Henson's remains from a public cemetery in the Bronx, N.Y.

Henson "was overlooked in the history ... for no other reason than his color," said S. Allen Counter, a Harvard University neuroscientist who took on the late black explorer's cause.

"I'm pleased for Matthew because I know he would say 'thank you,'" Counter said in a telephone interview from Boston. "It was my understanding that Henson wanted very much to be buried there."

The president's Oct. 30 announcement ended years of struggle to give the Charles County, Md. native recognition for discovering the North Pole with the Peary in 1909.

Counter began appealing to the President and Mrs. Reagan on behalf of Henson a little over a year ago with letters describing Henson's accomplishments and the reason she deserved recognition.

Peary and Cmdr. Donald E. MacMillan, who succeeded Peary in leading Arctic expeditions, always contended that Henson was the most essential part of Peary's North Pole party, according to Counter.

Of the seven people on the North Pole expedition, Peary asked only Henson to accompany him for the last 100 miles, MacMillan's account says, because Henson was the most qualified.

"Peary said he could not have done it without Henson," Counter said.

According to Counter, Henson never got the honor and recognition in the United States he deserved and geographical societies did not give him any credit for the discovery.

"When Peary died, the National Geographic Society dedicated a massive monument at Arlington for him" Counter said. "It did nothing for Henson."

In June, Counter helped bring Peary's 82-year-old son, Karree, and Henson's 81-year-old son, Ahnaukaq, together from Greenland to honor their fathers' graves in the United States.

"I wanted to set the record straight," said Counter. "I wanted to bring about justice where there had been no justice."

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## CSU's Albright No Longer Candidate For Texas Southern Post

CHARLOTTE (AP) — Johnson Smith University President Robert Albright said Tuesday he no longer is a candidate for president of Texas Southern University, the state's third-largest predominantly black university.

After careful consideration and reflection, I have concluded Johnson C. Smith University is not where I want to be," Albright said

at a new conference.

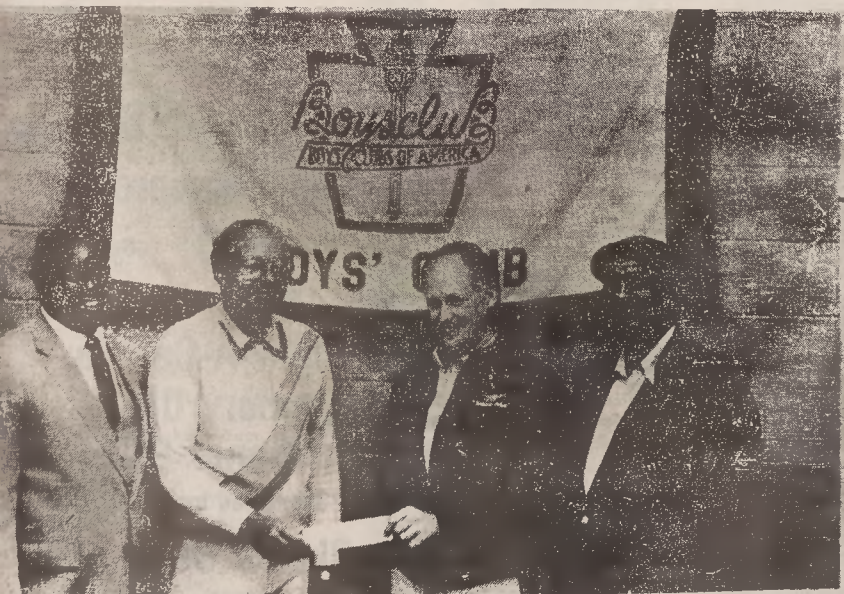
Albright said a search firm working for Texas Southern solicited him for president this summer. He declined to apply at first, he said, but then agreed to an interview.

He said he decided to withdraw after many friends and community members urged him to stay at J.C. Smith.

Albright has turned down a

chance for a bigger salary and the leadership of a large public university with pharmacy and law schools.

JCSU, a predominantly black university with about 1,200 students, pays him about \$70,000 plus other benefits, he said. Texas Southern was offering about \$115,000, plus other benefits that made the salary package worth about \$250,000, he said.



THE BULL CITY GOLF CLUB makes its annual donation to the John Avery Boys' Club and Durham Striders Youth Track Club. Proceeds are from the Bull City Golf Club's 12th annual Greater Durham Open Golf Tournament held this year August 1-2. Pictured (l-r) are: Fred

Ruffin, president; David Parker of the John Avery Boys' Club; Lester Watkins and Edgar McNell, tournament director. (Not shown, Frank Davis, Durham Striders.) Cosponsors of the tournament are Miller Breweing Company and Lamb Distributors.