# Sterling Brown, Literary Genius 87, Dies Following Long Illness

BY SHIRLEY REED-BLASH

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The voice of great African-American has denced. Sterling Allen Brown, con silenced. Sterling Allen Brown, considered a literary genius who insidered and influenced countless people as a nationally recognized poet, author, and scholar, died Jan. 13, at 7, after a long illness. He succumbed a leukemia at Heritage Health Care center, in nearby Takoma Park, Md. Brown helped to establish Africanimerican literature criticism with several works in the early 1930s, contidered one of his most important contributions.

contributions.

A native of Washington, Brown was born on May 1, 1901. He attended District of Columbia public schools, including Dumbar High School. His father, Sterling Nelson Brown, was a prominent local minister, member of the D.C. School Board, and professor of religion at Howard University.

Brown reportedly spent much of his childhood mingling with African-American intellectuals on Howard's campus, among them Paul Laurence sapus, among them Paul Laurence unbar. During these early years at oward, it is said he developed a black consciousness."

In 1923, Brown graduated from

Williams College, where he joined Phi Beta Kappa, and went on to earn a master's degree in English from Harvard University. Brown's teaching career began at the Virginia Theological Seminary, in Lynchburg, Va. He later went to Lincoln University, in Jefferson City, Mo., and Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn. In 1929, he assumed a post at Howard and taught literature there until his restrangent in 1969. retirement in 1969

A highly sought-after scholar, Brown was visiting professor at many campuses during his academic career, including Atlanta and New York universities, Vassar College, Wesleyan, and the universities of Illustrated Mineral Professor linois and Minnesota.

For 13 years, Brown also reportedly worked for the Federal Writers Project and on a landmark Carnegie Myrdal study of African-Americans.

Brown reportedly regarded himself primarily as a teacher. And, during 40 years at Howard, he is credited with introducing a number of groundbreaking' courses, including the first Afro-American literature course. Brown also performed with the famed Howard Players. "He had extraordinary influence on

Howard, shaping the curriculum and the English Department," said Michael Winston, the university's vice president of academic affairs, in a recent local newspaper article. Winston, a former student of Brown, added, "He's one of the greatest professors and one of the greats in the

Other distinguished African-Americans Brown taught at Howard were political activist Stokeley Carmichael, psychologist Kenneth B. Clark, actor Ossie Davis, writers Amiri Baraka, Paula Giddings, Toni Morrison, and Michael Thelwell; and Federal Appeals Court Judge Spott-swood W. Robinson, III, in Washington.

Brown emerged from retirement briefly in the early 1970s to work at Howard again.

Brown, who lived in the Brookland area of Washington, is survived by a son, John L. Dennis, of Silver Spring, Md.; a sister, Elsie B. Smith, of Landover Hills, Md.; and four grandchildren. His wife of 52 years, Daisy Turnbull Brown, died in 1979. Funeral services were held Thursday, Jan. 19, at Howard University's Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel.



STUDENTS SPEAK OUT—Enlow High student Derek McCullers spoke at the MLK celebration in the Raleigh Civic Center on what Dr. King's dream meant to him and students of his generation. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)

## **Laodicea Arts Society Plans Cultural Program**

The Black Arts Cultural Society of Laodicea United Church of Christ will sponsor "Search for Excellence-A Celebration of African-American Leaders—Today and Tomorrow" on Sunday, Feb. 5, at 4 p.m.

The program, in honor of black history, will feature some of Raleigh's finest musical and cultural talents and Dr. Milton D. Quigless, Jr. as the keynote speaker. It will recognize six honor students from area colleges; selected city, county and state elected officials; educators, business and community leaders. Some of those appearing on the program will be Waltye Rasulala and Connie Howard (WRAL-TV 5), Thelma Lennon (retired, N.C. Department of Instruction), Brothers in Christ (NCSU), Horace Caple

(Shaw University), video presentations by Dr. Lawrence Clark (associate provost, NCSU) and Ms. Irene Clark (St. Augustine's College), the Brothers in Unity and Ms. Edna Haywood (Laodicea United Church of Christ).

This program promises to be one of the best events in honor of black history. The public is invited to attend.

## ATTEND CHURCH

#### **Barbour Marches** With Band During **Bush Inaugural**

Schyuler Barbour, a member of First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church and the Needham B. Broughton High School Marching Band Flag Corps, traveled with the band to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Inaugural Parade for President George Bush.

Schyuler is a senior at Broughton and is on the A-B Honor Roll.

The trip to the inaugural celebration for the President of the United States was an opportunity for her to witness, in person, the transition of power which occurs at four- or eightyear intervals within the United States government and recorded in the history of the United States of America.

Many people will not see this event in their lifetime and we commend Schyuler Barbour because the Lord has gien her the opportunity to see this event in person.

Schyuler is the daughter of Joseph Preston Barbour, 517 Calloway Drive, Raleigh.

#### Service Group **Preparing For** Summer Program

The World Mutual Service Group met at the Hargett Street Branch of the YWCA on Sunday, Jan. 22, at 3

The Hargett Street Day Care Center was opened Jan 2. The group is now preparing for its summer day care center.

May 7 was set for the Children's Extravaganza.

Members present were Ms. Marie Macon, Ms. Lillie B. Scott, Ms. Betty Whitaker, Ms. Lillie S. Ballentine, Ms. Mary G. Carter, Ms. Daisy Rob-son, Ms. Shirley Nimmons, Ms. Naomi Thompson, Ms. Jessie Mebane, Ms. Rachel Payne, Ms. Juanita Lucas and Ms. Lucille Griswold Paige.

# Pope Calls For Special Synod Of Bishops On Church Role In Africa

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope John
Paul II recently called a special
synod of bishops on the role of the
church in Africa, where Roman
Catholicism is spreading faster than
anywhere else in the world.

John Paul, who has visited the con-

t four times since he became made the surprise announce-t during his noon Angelus ad-from his window overlooking

"I have the joy to announce an in-tiative of great importance for the spread of the Gospel... I have decided to convene a special assembly for Africa of the synod of bishops on the home, "The church in Africa toward he Third Millenium," he said.

he Third Millenium," he said.

The pope said he was acting on a congstanding request by African relates, theologians and lay people.

"I invite you to remember with prayers the African continent, the bissed land that welcomed the exiled Jesus with his family, and received the message of Christ from the first centuries," he said.

"Let us pray that the new synodal initiative, with the help of God, can represent for the universal church and for all the individual churches in Africa special moment in the course

whom I feel so close."

John Paul did not say when or where the assembly would be held but announced he had appointed an organizing commission of nine African prelates headed by Cardinal Christian Wiyghan Tumi, archbishop of Garoua in Cameroon.

The synod is a consultative body which meets every three years to inform and advise the pope on various issues. Sometimes the pope calls a

special or extraordinary synod.

The last worldwide synod of bishops was held at the Vatican in October 1987 to discuss the role of the laity in church and society.

Pope John Paul visited Africa in

May 1980, February 1982, August 1985 and last September. During the most recent trip, he toured Zimbabwe, Botswana. Lesotho, Swaziland and

He also made a brief unscheduled stop in South Africa when bad weather forced his plane down there. Africa special moment in the course The pope is expected to return to of faith of those beloved people, to Africa in 1989, probably in April.

> Africa has the world's fastestgrowing Christian community. The Catholic Church there has at least 70 million followers, about 13 percent of the population, with nearly 500 bishops and 19,000 priests.

By the year 2000, the Vatican says it spects to have 100 million African faithful, or 18 percent of the popula-tion. Roman Catholics made up just one percent of Africa's population a century ago.

Women in the Kivu region of eastern Zaire can be prosecuted for wearing mini-skirts, officials announced. Also banned are trousers, culottes, wigs, lipstick and other Western fashions.



Hours: 9:30 - 8:30 M-F 9:30 - 5:30 Sat.

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## Come Let's Think

e the Lord! Praise the Lord! "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord." It really makes to praise the Lord.

We are in God's end time cycle, and we are called to be part of the culmination of God's end-time st. God is in control! The earth ises His deity and worthiness praised, so come now, let's Him. No one is able to praise God for you—you must do your own part of praising Him. Even thelittle children are able to praise Him, and every child should be taught to praise the Lord. Why?

the Lord. Why?

Praise is not man's idea, but a mandate from God. This was His reason for creating us. Read I Peter 2:9 and Psalms 102:18. Praise really is worship, physically expressed. This is the way God's people manifest their love and appreciation. If you love Him, you ought to praise Him. He is your source of life, and every good and perfect gift comes from Him., Body, mind, and spirit live only because God lives, and loves us. I am glad to graise Him for His mercy and for His Him for His mercy and for His Think about it.

in Think about it.

ise is one way God provides for draw nearer and nearer to Him.

w nigh to God and He will draw to you." If you praise the Lord will find joy beginning to spring your soul. The more you praise and, the more of His presence will feel. When you live right, you may praising the Lord. "Praise nely for the upright." Those people faithfully live all they know



VICKIE M. LATAILLADE

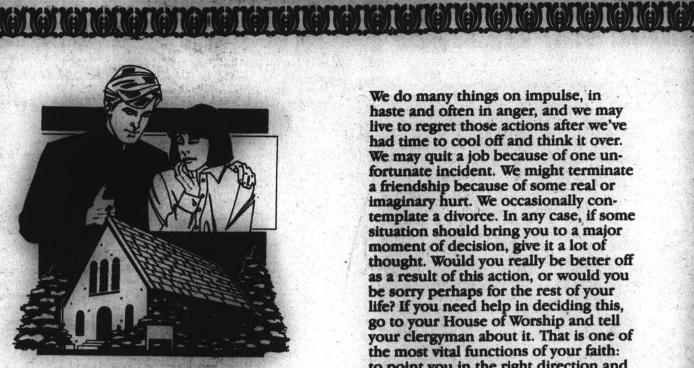
#### Gospel Record **Company Names Product Manager**

CHATSWORTH, Calif.—Sparrow Records has named Vicki Mack Lataillade to the position of product/marketing manager. In the post she will be responsible for the development and implementation of marketing strategies for Sparrow's artists and their products to the general marketingace, according to Bill ists and their products to the pel marketplace, according to Bill arn, senior vice president of rketing, to whom she will report. ditionally, she will be called on to ther expand Sparrow's role within t market.

Ms. Mack Lataillade brings 14 years of gospel music retail and pro-motion experience to Sparrow. She has worked with RCA and Light corporate clients such as QWEST,
A&M/Word, Benson and Virgin
Recors and artists Al Green, the
Winans, Andrae Crouch, Shirley
Caesar and the Clark Sisters as well
as Sparrow's Tramaine Hawkins,
BeBe and CeCe Winans and Deniece

Ms. Mack Lataillade and her hus-and Claude live with their two aughters, Nadia and Shamael, in In-

Alex Heleym, critically acclaimed author, noting that one pitfall of fame is that he is often called upon to be a spokesman for all African-American people: "I don't know what the black people think. Often I don't know what



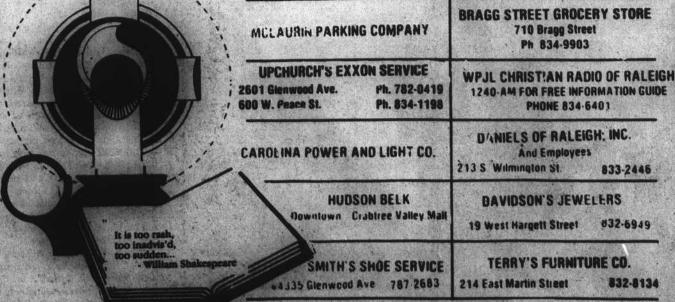
DON'T ACT ON IMPULSE; LET FAITH HELP YOU DECIDE

haste and often in anger, and we may live to regret those actions after we've had time to cool off and think it over. We may quit a job because of one unfortunate incident. We might terminate a friendship because of some real or imaginary hurt. We occasionally contemplate a divorce. In any case, if some situation should bring you to a major moment of decision, give it a lot of thought. Would you really be better off as a result of this action, or would you be sorry perhaps for the rest of your life? If you need help in deciding this, go to your House of Worship and tell your clergyman about it. That is one of the most vital functions of your faith: to point you in the right direction and to help you straighten out your life, once and for all.

We do many things on impulse, in

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