



9-26-1973

Daily Beacon Article/Photo: "UT Gets 'Life Distilled'"

Commission for Blacks

Follow this and additional works at: https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_blackmisccommunications

Recommended Citation

Commission for Blacks, "Daily Beacon Article/Photo: "UT Gets 'Life Distilled'" (1973). *Miscellaneous Communications*.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_blackmisccommunications/5

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Issues, Proposals, and Recommendations at TRACE: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Miscellaneous Communications by an authorized administrator of TRACE: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact trace@utk.edu.

UT gets 'life distilled'

By KAREN FUSON

"I bring you poetry," announced Gwendolyn Brooks, and poetry is "life distilled."

Pulitzer Prize winner Gwendolyn Brooks spoke informally to classes and lectured last night in the University Center Ballroom.

The small, vigorous woman said her poetry is "generally about people but specifically about blacks." The hopes

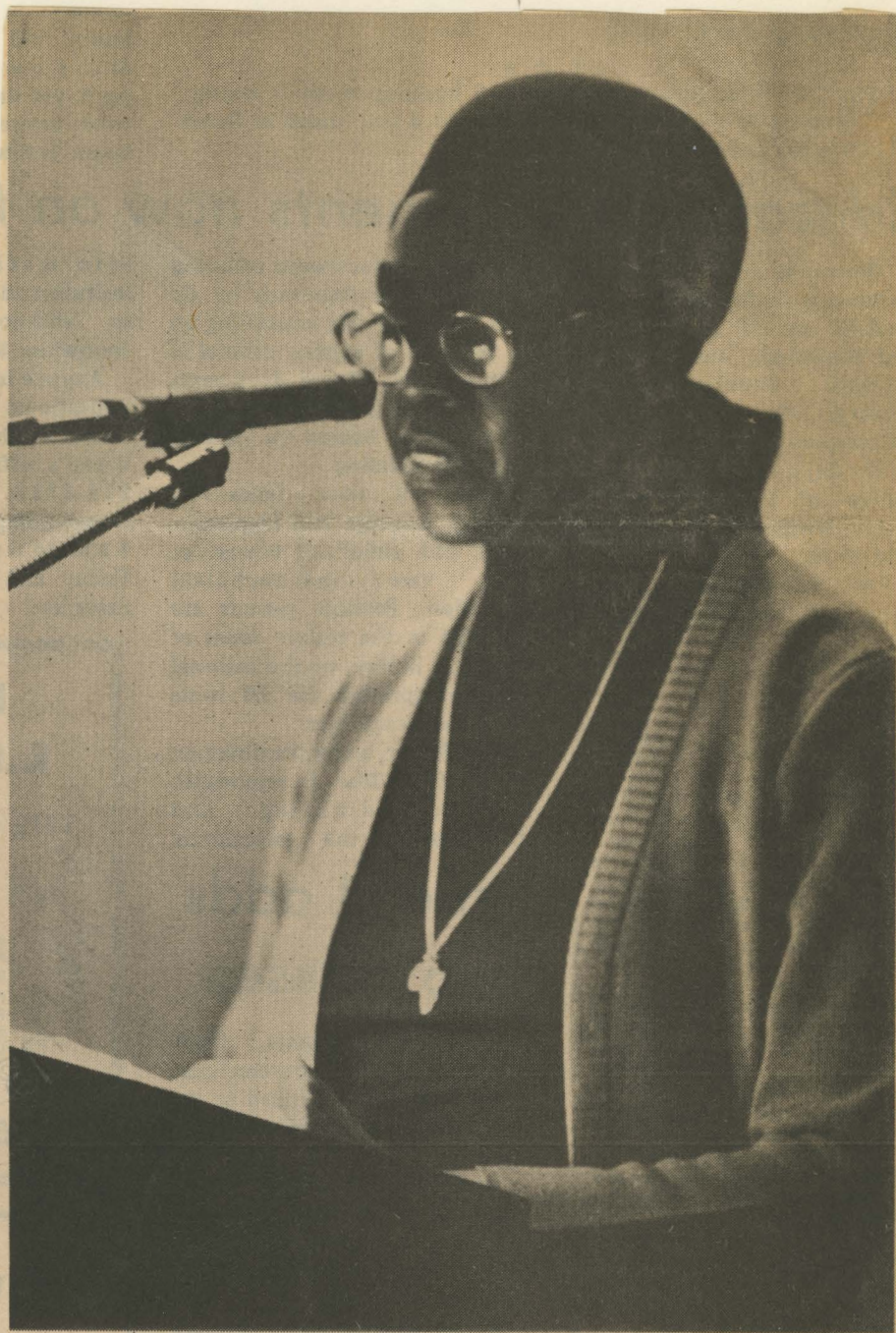
and dreams involved in her writing she considers to be a part of realism. Concerning other interpretations of her poetry she says "eavesdroppers may find something else relevant about her poetry, but it was not written with a universal objective in mind."

An unusual range of topics have fallen under the pen of Brooks, who wryly said "even trees are a proper subject for blacks to write about—if only because so many were hung from them."

Brooks spoke freely with the group of predominately white students, her wide smile often tipping off the forthcoming humor. She said she "felt differently about poetry after meeting young black poets," and, because of this, she altered her writing style in the 60's. She explained it was not her intention to imitate but rather to expand her own scope of ability.

After writing for 26 years (since the age of 11), she received a Pulitzer Prize for the volume of poems, *Annie Allen*, in 1950. She has also been the recipient of two Guggenheim Fellowships and 13 honorary doctorate degrees. A resident of Chicago, where she was raised, Brooks has two children who have been a constant source of inspiration in her writing.

Brooks said of black leadership: "We don't need to put another one on a throne to shoot off—there are many strong people working anonymously for the good of blacks." Continuing to express herself through her poetry, Brooks states that "the fact that we are black is our ultimate reality."



Staff Photo by Joe Willis

'I bring you poetry'

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gwendolyn Brooks reads selections of her works to an overflow crowd in the University Center Ballroom Tuesday night.

Sept. 26, 1973