

Poet laureate Brooks presents works

By LEAH ROZEN
Collegian Staff Writer

Gwendolyn Brooks has spent a large part of her 57 years writing poetry because, to her, "Poetry is life distilled."
"That's what I decided many years ago," she said last night at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, "and I have found nothing to change my opinion."
Brooks read and commented on her poems for the more

Impressions

than 300 persons who came to hear the poet laureate of Illinois.
After reading a few poems by other authors, Brooks delved into her own material.
Hearing Brooks read her own poetry made it more immediate to the audience. She stretched out words, swooped her voice high and low, punctuated lines with laughter and made the black and white lines of the printed page come alive.

After reading a poem on abortion, Brooks turned to one about horses grazing. "Some of my little black friends say 'That ain't black, that ain't relevant,' but I don't apologize about writing this little poem," Brooks said.
Before reading a poem about love, Brooks said, "It's all proper," since it was dedicated to her husband.
"Of late, I have become a very bannable poet," Brooks said. Her poem "We Real Cool" recently was banned in a Nebraska school because of a line in which the protagonists say they want to "jazz June."
"Jazz" was taken as a sexual reference," Brooks said. "I hadn't intended it to be a sexual reference, but I don't mind it."

Before reading "The Ballad of Pearl Mae Lee," a poem she said had been Langston Hughes' favorite from among her works, Brooks said it had some words that were "acceptable now since some of our highest officers have tended to popularize them recently."

"Riots are a truly an inspiration to a poet's pen," Brooks said. The Chicago riots which followed the assassination of Martin

Luther King Jr. spurred her to write a poem about a young white liberal, John Cabot, who is suddenly faced by crowds of defiant young blacks.

Brooks has the man say, as he falls to the ground, "Lord, forgive these niggers, for they know not what they do."

"Boy Breaking Glass," a poem about the young "militants" of the racial turbulence from recent years, was Brooks' attempt to "distill some degree of their motivation."

Reading a poem she wrote for the dedication of the Picasso statue which now rests in Chicago's Civic Center, Brooks recited, "Does man love art, man visits art but squirms."

Brooks said she was glad the Picasso statue had been given to Chicago, calling it a "real mind-extender."

"I'm going to close with another banned poem," Brooks told the audience. "This one was just banned in West Virginia. It appeared 35 years ago in my first book."

Many eminent critics have said that this poem functions on several levels and has many meanings. This is not true," she said.

"It is merely the distilled resentment my brother and I felt at being restrained by our proper mother."

The poem, "A Song in the Front Yard," includes a line where Brooks expresses a desire to be a "bad woman" and "to strut down the street with make-up on my face."



Gwendolyn Brooks Photo by Jeff Shprintz

Malizia elected head of ARHS

Sam Malizia (9th-business administration) last night was elected president of the Association of Residence Hall Students.

Malizia, running uncontested, said before the balloting he would work to make ARHS "the most important group on campus in terms of service, programming and relations with the (University) administration."

Tom Trask (9th-physics) was elected vice president on the second ballot over Georglyn Lashak (6th-liberal arts). Dave Robbins (7th-business administration) was eliminated on the first ballot.

In other ARHS action: Malizia reported that the University Concert Committee voted the proposed April 30 Livingston Taylor concert, due to a scheduling conflict with its own May 4th concert.

A request by the Festival of Life for \$300 was denied. ARHS agreed to reconsider the matter after Residence Hall Week expenses are covered.

FREE U BELLY DANCING CLASS will be cancelled Wednesday, March 26 And Wednesday, April 2.

ARHS MOVIE TIMETABLE

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Thur - Sun 7:30 & 9:30
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Theme: "THE UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM" (Hebrews 12:28)

Purpose: Building up the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13)
Dates: Friday evening May 2nd and all day Saturday May 3rd, 1975
Place: University Auditorium, Penn State Campus
Times: 7:30 pm Friday, May 2nd
10:00 am
2:00 pm
7:30 pm Saturday, May 3rd

For everyone in the academic and local communities. Plan to attend ALL the sessions — enjoy the continuity of the total conference.

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Larry & CJ taught here Jan 31 and Feb 1 at Grace Lutheran and Schwab Auditorium. The Lord has brought them back to us on May 2nd & 3rd and has opened up the new University Auditorium for His Glory.

Larry & C.J. are involved in a large teaching ministry in Wash. D.C. called

T.A.G. (Triumphantly Abiding in God)

They have ministered together in D.C., Rochester, NY, Florida, and the 1974 Collegiate Conference in Roanoke, Va. They teach out of an in-depth understanding of the Holy Scriptures and under the power of the Holy Spirit.



Larry is author of *Clap Your Hands* & a dynamic speaker.

C.J. brings youthful vigor & enthusiasm & speaks dynamically.