

From: National Federation of Catholic College Students March 2, 1946
Tel.: Edgecomb 4-1500
Contact: Mrs. Ward Clarke, Public Relations Office
Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart
Convent Avenue and 133rd Street, New York 27

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Federation of Catholic College Students today opened National Interracial Justice Week with a Forum held at Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart. The Federation represents ninety-seven colleges from California to the eastern seaboard and over one hundred thousand college students. Under its auspices many prominent negro and white leaders in the field of Interracial Justice gathered with students and interested spectators to discuss "The Contribution of the Negro to the Arts." Among those present were Right Rev. Monsignor George Moore, pastor of St. Peter's Church in Barclay Street, Rev. John Lafarge, S.J., editor of America, Mr. George Hunton, editor of Interracial Review, Mr. George Schuyler, editor of the Pittsburg Courier, Mr. Charles Buchanan.

Miss Charlotte Murdock, national chairman of the Interracial Justice Commission, presided at the meeting and presented Miss Dolly Malley, Senior Delegate from Manhattanville College to the N.F.C.C.S. who replaced Mr. John Carlin of St. John's University, Brooklyn, President of the New York Region of the N.F.C.C.S. who was unable to attend the Forum. Miss Malley emphasized the need for Catholic leadership in the field of Interracial Justice. To inaugurate the afternoon's program, a poem, "Christ the Prodigal", written for the occasion by Barbara Kane of Manhattanville College, was read by Miss Sarah Duross. Then followed the reading of short papers by six student delegates: Miss Roberta Fagan, College of Notre Dame, Staten Island, cited Paul Laurence Dunbar as the first Negro to reveal extraordinary skill in the field of American prose. Miss Muriel Bachman, College of New Rochelle, discussed the contribution of the Negro in the realm of poetry, stressing the principle that "the Negro poet must be judged, not as a Negro, but as a poet," and that "his work as a creative artist is bound to be a battering ram against the wall of prejudice." The achievement of the Negro in American sculpture was the topic chosen by Miss Anne Delaney of the College of Saint Rose, Albany. Miss Delaney pointed to the excellent work of such artists as Mr. Richmond Barthé who is especially well-known for his portrayal of race types and rhythm groups. The fourth speaker, Miss Rita Pfeifer of the College of Mount Saint Vincent, stressed the rapid advancement of the Negro in the field of painting, referring particularly to his "progress

in technical skill, presentation of ideas and variety of media." Mr. Tom Ryan of Manhattan College, in discussing the Negro and the Theatre, brought to our attention the work of such stars as Marian Anderson and Canada Lee. "The true representation of the Negro as a person rather than a character," he said, "is resulting in plays with an interracial cast, such as 'Deep Are the Roots' and 'The Young American.'" The final student speaker, Miss Gina Rahilly of Georgian Court College, whose subject was the "American Negro in Music," focussed attention on the universal appeal of all music to all people. "The Negro composer, rich in his heritage of song, ever sprung from those close to the soil, reaches up for the canons of form...the while man reaches down for inspiration..Eventually their hands must meet."

Towards the end of this part of the program Miss Norma Armstrong of Manhattanville read the sonnet, "A New Day," graciously written for this Forum by the eminent Negro poet Claude McKay.

Winners of the three national contests sponsored by the National Interracial Commission in connection with the events on Interracial Justice Week were announced at the Forum: The poster contest, judged by Nina Barr Wheeler, Maurice Lavincoux of Liturgical Arts, and Raymond Dowden of Cooper Art Union, has been won by Miss Betty Lee Bissell, Siena Heights College/^{Adrian, Michigan} as first prize winner. Miss Marilyn Westlob of the same college won first honorable mention; while Miss Rosmarie Berger of Manhattanville College won second and third honorable mentions for two posters. Mr. George Schuyler of the Pittsburg Courier and Dr. Arthur P. Davis of Howard University have awarded the first prize in the Essay Contest to Miss Patricia Riley of Immaculate College, Los Angeles, California; the second prize to Miss Geraldine Schloeman of Marian College, Indianapolis, Indiana; the third prize to Mr. James Miller

In the One-Act Play Contest the judges, Rev. Urban Nagle, O.P. of Blackfriars Guild and Mr. Theophilus Lewis, dramatic critic of America, named Elizabeth Ornstein of Manhattanville College as the first prize winner, Betty Shaele of College Misericordia, Dallas, Pa. and Eleanor Skemp of Milwaukee, Wis. as second prize winners; Wallace Moran of Manhattan College third prize winner.

N.B.ACCOUNT OF MR. STERLING A. BROWN GUEST SPEAKER

ON SEPARATE PAGE/

The outstanding speaker of the afternoon, Mr. STERLING A. BROWN, was introduced by Rev. John Lafarge, S.J., editor of America. Mr. Brown, distinguished poet, essayist and educator, was born in Washington, D.C. and educated at Williams College and Harvard University. At present he is Professor of English at Howard University and has served as visiting Professor of English at Vassar College. He is a member of the Committee on Negro Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies, and has been selected in the nationwide poll conducted by officials of the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature of the New York Public Library as one of the twelve Negroes who have strengthened the foundations of national unity and better race relations. Author of The Negro Caravan, The Negro in American Fiction, and a collection of poems, Southern Road, he is actually at work completing A Negro Looks at the South, a social interpretation.