



The Owl

"The Owl of Minerva takes flight only as the dusk begins to fall." — Hegel

AFRICAN AMERICAN POETS ... IN THE RARE BOOKS BROADSIDE COLLECTION

By Amy Purcell,
Special Collections, Ekstrom Library

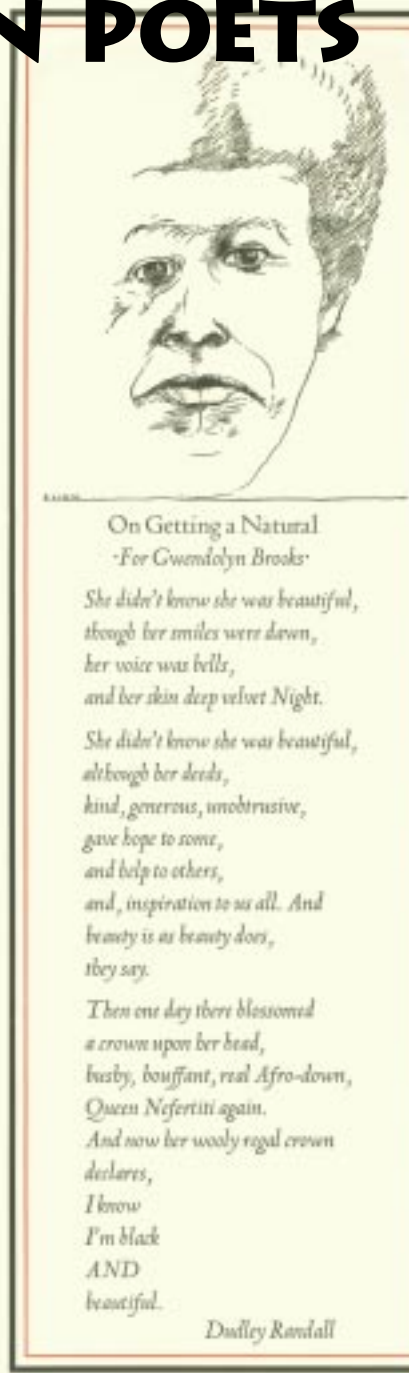
Broadsides are single-sheet publications, often issued as ephemera or announcements. The broadside format is a traditional one, having been used from the beginning of printing to the present time. The Rare Books' broadside collection contains limited edition works chiefly from the 20th century. It includes the White Field Press' Literary Renaissance, "beat" poetry, and the works of black poets from the Harlem Renaissance. Among the poets represented are Gwendolyn Brooks, Langston Hughes, LeRoi Jones, Wendell Berry, Leon Driskell, Diane di Prima, Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, and Ron Whitehead. There are portfolios and individually published broadsides from Black Sun Press, Unicorn Press, Gehenna, and Kriya Press, among others.

The Owl honors Black History month with a sampling from our African American poets' broadside publications:

Dudley Randall was a poet, publisher, editor, and founder of Broadside Press. His first published poem appeared in the *Detroit Free Press* when he was thirteen. When "Ballad of Birmingham," written in response to the 1963 bombing of a church in which four girls were killed, was set to music and recorded, Randall established Broadside Press, printing the poem in 1965 as a broadside to protect his rights. His 1970 poem, "On Getting a Natural: For Gwendolyn Brooks," is reproduced on the right.

Gwendolyn Brooks became the first African American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in 1950; she won for her book of poetry *Annie Allen*. She was also the first African American to receive an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in 1976. She was the poet laureate for Illinois and was awarded numerous honorary degrees and awards, including two Guggenheim fellowships. And she served as a poetry consultant to the Library of Congress. Brooks preferred free verse to poetic form, as shown in the 1966 example, "We Real Cool," on page 2.

LeRoi Jones (Amiri Baraka) is a poet, writer, political activist and



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teacher. He founded Totem Press in 1958, which first published works by Kerouac, Ginsberg and other lesser-known writers of the time period. In 1968, he changed his name to Amiri Baraka in reverence of his Muslim beliefs. His 1965 composition, "A Poem for Black Hearts," was published by Broadside Press in 1967 (reproduced below).

Langston Hughes is particularly known for his insightful, colorful portrayals of black life in America from the twenties through the sixties. He wrote novels, short stories and plays, as well as poetry. His life and work were enormously important in shaping the artistic contributions of the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s. Hughes didn't differentiate between his personal experience and the common experience

A Poem for Black Hearts

By LEROI JONES

For Malcolm's eyes, when they broke
the face of some dumb white man. For
Malcolm's hands raised to bless us
all black and strong in his image
of ourselves, for Malcolm's words
fire darts, the victor's tireless
thrusts, words hung above the world
change as it may, he said it, and
for this he was killed, for saying,
and feeling, and being/ change, all
collected hot in his heart, For Malcolm's
heart, raising us above our filthy cities,
for his stride, and his beat, and his address
to the grey monsters of the world, For Malcolm's
pleas for your dignity, black men, for your life,
black men, for the filling of your minds
with righteousness, For all of him dead and
gone and vanished from us, and all of him which
clings to our speech black god of our time.
For all of him, and all of yourself, look up,
black man, quit stuttering and shuffling, look up,
black man, quit whining and stooping, for all of him,
For Great Malcolm a prince of the earth, let nothing in us rest
until we avenge ourselves for his death, stupid animals
that killed him, let us never breathe a pure breath if
we fail, and white men call us faggots till the end of
the earth.

April, 1965

Copyright © 1965 by LeRoi Jones
Reprinted from *Negro Digest*, September 1965, by permission of the Sterling Lord Agency
BROADSIDE NO. 7, January 1967
BROADSIDE PRESS, 12851 OLD MILL PLACE, DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48238



of black America. He told the stories of his people in ways that reflected their actual culture, including both their suffering and their love of music, laughter, and language itself. Broadside Press issued his "The Backlash Blues" in 1967, shown on page 3.

Rita Dove served as Poet Laureate of the United States and Consultant to the Library of Congress from 1993 to 1995. She has received numerous literary and academic honors, among them the 1987 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry and, most recently, the 2003 Emily Couric Leadership Award, the 2001 Duke Ellington Lifetime Achievement Award, the 1997 Sara Lee Frontrunner Award, the 1997 Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award, the 1996 Heinz Award in the Arts and Humanities and the 1996 National Humanities Medal. The broadside on the next page is a publication of Louisville's White Fields Press.

The background image on page 1 of this issue of *The Owl* is a portrait of Angela Davis by Talita Long and is from "The



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The Owl's purpose is to promote communication among the various libraries in the UofL system. Deadline for publication is the 21st of each month.

THE BACKLASH BLUES
BY
LANGSTON HUGHES

Mister Backlash, Mister Backlash,
Just who do you think I am?
You raise my taxes, freeze my wages,
Send my son to Vietnam,
You give me second class buses,
Second class schools,
Do you think that colored folks
Are just second class fools?
When I try to find a job
To earn a little cash,
All you got to offer
Is a white backlash,
But the world is big,
Big and bright and round—
And it's full of folks like me who are
Black, Yellow, Beige, and Brown.
Mister Backlash, Mister Backlash,
What do you think I got to lose?
I'm gonna leave you, Mister Backlash,
Singing your mean old backlash blues.
You're the one
I'll leave the blues,
Not me—
I'll sit and see!

—1966

Reprinted by permission of Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.
from *The Poet and the Poem*, by Langston Hughes
Copyright © 1965 by Langston Hughes
Reprinted by permission of Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.
Reprinted from *The Poet and the Poem*, by Langston Hughes

Nigger Cycle: For Angela Davis Kidnapped by the F.B.I. on Oct. 13, 1970” by Kuweka Amiri Mwandishe, Broadside Press, 1971.

To see a complete list of broadsides in Rare Books, do a keyword search in Minerva on “broadside” and set the limit to Ekstrom Library-Rare Books.

Sources:

- http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/poets/m_r/andall/life.htm
- <http://www.math.buffalo.edu/~sww/brooks/brooks-biobib.html>
- <http://www.beatmuseum.org/baraka/jones.html>
- <http://www.poets.org/poets/poets.cfm?prmID=84>
- <http://www.people.virginia.edu/~rfd4b/>

RITA DOVE

Three Days of Forest, a River, Free

The dogs have nothing better
to do than bark; duty's whistle
slings a bright cord
around their throats.
I'll stand here all night
if need be, no more real
than a tree when no moon shines.

The terror of waking is a trust
drawn out unbearably
until nothing, not even love,
makes it easier, and yet
I love this life:

three days of forest,
the mute riot of leaves.

Who can point out a smell
but a dog? The way is free
to the river. Tell me,
Lord, how it feels
to burst out like a rose.

Blood rises in my head—
I'm there.
Faint tongue, dry fear,
I think I lost you to the dogs,
so far off now they're no
more than a chain of bells
ringing darkly, underground.



Photo by Paul Quenon



supporting a global literary community

“Three Days of Forest, a River, Free” ©1996 Rita Dove.
Permission to print granted by Rita Dove.
“Japanese Lantern Tree” photo by Paul Quenon.
Permission to print granted by Paul Quenon.

Published in Heaven Poster Series #57
White Fields Press
1387 Lexington Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40206 USA
Editors: Kent Fielding & Ron Whitehead
Assistant: Rami

BALLAD OF BIRMINGHAM

(On the bombing of a church in Birmingham)

By DUDLEY RANDALL

“Mother dear, may I go downtown
Instead of out to play,
And march the streets of Birmingham
In the Freedom March today?”
“No, baby, no, you may not go,
For the dogs are fierce and wild,
And clubs and hoses, guns and jails
Aren't good for a little child.”
“But, mother, I won't be alone.
More children will go with me
And march the streets of Birmingham
To make our country free.”
“No, baby, no, you may not go,
For I fear those guns will fire,
But you may go to church instead,
And sing in the children's choir.”
She has combed and brushed her nightdark hair,
And bathed rose petal sweet,
And drawn white gloves on her small brown hands,
And white shoes on her feet.
The mother smiled to know her child
Was in the sacred place,
But that smile was the last smile
To come upon her face.
For when she heard the explosion,
Her eyes grew wet and wild,
She raced through the streets of Birmingham
Calling for her child.
She clawed in bits of glass and brick,
Then lifted out a shoe.
“O, here's a shoe, but where's the foot,
And, baby, where are you?”

© Copyright 1963 and 1965 Melody Trails, Inc., New York, N. Y.

Also available in the song,
BALLAD OF BIRMINGHAM,
Words by Dudley Randall; Music by Jerry Moore.

This is the definitive version of the poem,
extensively revised by the author.

BROADSIDE No. 1, September, 1965
Broadside Press
12651 Old Mill Place
Detroit, Michigan 48238

35 Cents

From the Dean of Libraries . . .



A NEW YEAR HAS BEGUN and everyone is as busy as ever. Soon it will be time to complete our annual evaluations and to update our work plans and goals. Based on the dismal budget information forthcoming from the Council on Postsecondary Education and others, we will need to begin a collection assessment for possible reduction next year and as of now we will not fill any vacant positions.

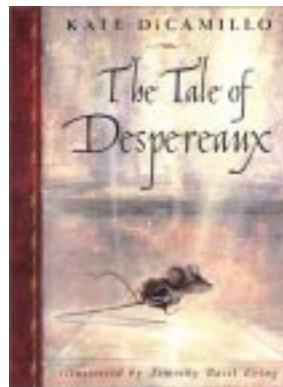
The University's Strategic Technology Executive Committee has been meeting for several months on a bi-monthly basis. This group provides guidance for the university's technology infrastructure and network, addresses academic computing issues, guides university-wide expenditures and investment in strategic technology and initiatives, and assesses technology investments and outcomes. The membership includes eleven top administrators including the Acting Provost, the Vice Presidents for business, advancement, student administration, information technology, finance, and research, a dean representative for the Health Sciences and Belknap Campuses and the Dean of University Libraries.

The SAALCK (State Assisted Academic Library Consortium of Kentucky) met December 4 at the University of Louisville to address their new responsibility as a consortium for collection development and other initiatives. Michael McCoy had been hired to be the group's Executive Director in these new endeavors. The groups also discussed the complicated issue regarding negotiating the Elsevier contract for the group. Suzy Palmer has been made co-chair of the SAALCK Collection Development Committee.

On December 8 I was a speaker at the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Conference in Philadelphia, "Decisions by Design, when Values and Realities Collide." The majority of the conference addressed assessment and learning outcome issues. Several hundred academic administrators, provosts, presidents and faculty attended. I was part of a panel which addressed "evaluating and using information in the classroom." It was a wonderful learning experience to participate in this meeting, since the Middle States Commission on Higher Education has really begun to use information literacy assessment initiatives.

January 9-13 I attended the ALA (American Library

Association) meeting in San Diego along with 10,000 other librarians. As usual, the numerous exhibits were interesting and educational and helped all of us meet and exchange information with colleagues from around the nation. Many book awards were given during the conference, including the Caldecott medal to Mordicai Gerstein's book *The Man Who Walked between the Towers* and the Newbery Medal to Kate DiCamillo's *The Tale of Despereaux*.



By invitation I attended several meetings with the ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries). One long session helped finalize ACRL's Strategic Plan, which addresses the major changes in academic librarianship. Details can be found on the ACRL website <http://www.acrl.org/>. The website also addresses e-learning and provides information about the next ACRL national conference in Minneapolis. (Program proposals may still be submitted.) As the ACRL representative to the ALA Recruitment Assembly, I participated in a meaningful discussion on recruitment and retention of librarians around the U.S. I presented my final report on the ARL/ACRL Recruitment Task Force to the ACRL Board. As member of the editorial board of *Reference Services Review* I helped decide the content for the next several issues. I also participated in programs and meetings related to assessment of students' information and computer skills, especially the National Higher Education Information and Communication Initiative with the Educational Testing Service. The Prague Declaration "Toward an Information Literate Society" http://www.infolit.org/International_Conference/index.htm was widely circulated during the ALA meeting. This document directly relates to the assessment issues.

— Hannelore Rader, Dean of University Libraries

Library Dept. & Team News

Ekstrom Library Collection Access & Management

New Team Name

Content Access has a new name! We are now Collection Access and Management. You can find our distribution list in the address book of GroupWise under LIBS - Collection Access and Management Team.

ALA News

Allen Ashman gave a presentation on "The Prevalence and Distribution of Union Listing Records in OCLC's Worldcat" at the ALA Midwinter Conference in San Diego.

Collection Development

Collection Development also underwent a name change (from Collection Management) last month and is now under the supervision of Suzy Szasz Palmer (formerly of Special Collections). Her first full month as team leader was marked by the departure of Jodi Duce to the Law Library and the extended leave of Dave Meyer, who is recuperating at home from surgery. Both Suzy and Bob Roehm are coping with the shrunken department as well as can be expected, and they wish Jodi well in her new job and Dave a really, REALLY speedy recovery!

Media and Current Periodicals

New Student

Welcome to Susan Spencer who has joined the M&CP crew. Susan is a continuing student with a recent degree in Anthropology.

David Horvath and Mildred Franks participated in a panel discussion for the event "Teaching and Education That is Multicultural: Research and the Libraries," held on January 22 in the LIC. Faculty presenters, Nefertiti Burton, Daya Sandhu, and Blaine Hudson discussed their Multicultural Teaching Awards and the connections with the library.

The department recently revamped its viewing carrels, adding five new video monitors and several new DVD

and VHS players. This has come in the nick of time as our resources are stretched by increases in telecourse offerings and heavy use by Interpretive Training Program Students (sign language).

Other technology improvements include:


- The addition of two digital microfilm scanners which scan film images directly to an Adobe interface on a workstation. The files can then be emailed via the network or printed to Uniprint. This allows patrons to use their Cardinal Cards to pay for film copies and pay the standard fee rather than \$.10/copy for other reader printers
- The addition of Adobe document software on the public access scanner. Now patrons can scan pictures, OCR and create Adobe documents all at the same workstation, connected to the network or Uniprint.

Office of Libraries Technology

Statistical Reports on the Intranet

A link has been created on the Intranet (<http://staff.library.louisville.edu> under the Newsletter, etc. section) for major statistical reports on usage and collection counts of electronic journals, databases, web access, voyager records, and circulation transactions.

Basic Computer Skills Training Sessions

In response to the results of the Technology Core Competencies Self-Assessment Survey, OLT will offer a series of training sessions on some basic computer skills. Contents will include computer equipment care, network accounts, and file management. OLT is planning to offer these classes in the CLC twice a month  for six months beginning in January 2004. The schedules for January and February are listed below:

- Place: Ekstrom, CLC
Time: 10:00 am - 11:00 am
February 11 (2nd Wednesday of the month)
February 25 (4th Wednesday of the month)

If this schedule works well, the schedule (every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month) will remain the same for the rest of the next four months. Otherwise, there will be a change.

Contents to be covered in the training:

- Difference between Midgard (our local network) and the IT network. How to check whether or not a computer is connected to the Network
- Importance of upkeep of the computers, mouse cleaning, keyboard cleaning, routine checks, etc.
- How to make hardware changes such as adding a new mouse, changing items out, or adding printers
- How to connect to the Internet via the LAN with Internet Explorer. How to customize some commonly use settings (set home page, etc.)
- How to add local/network printers
- How obtain PC information for troubleshooting
- How to locate files saved on the local hard drive and network drive
- How to perform virus scan and update your Anti-Virus when needed
- Novell, ULink, GroupWise, and ULNet Remote passwords and how to change information, etc.
- How to eject USB Devices from the computer
- Windows 2000/XP

Office of the Dean of Libraries

The Libraries extend a fond farewell and wish success to the following employees who have resigned:

David Sauter, Library Assistant, Collection Access & Management resigned effective January 5, 2004. David is now a stay-at-home dad for his and Aleve's new baby boy!

Nanda Perez, Library Assistant, Collection Access & Management resigned effective January 8, 2004. Nanda is expecting a baby girl in March!



Jodi Duce, Library Assistant, Collection Development resigned effective January 16, 2004. Jodie has accepted the position of Unit Business Manager for the Brandeis Law Library.

Special Collections

Scanning Workshop

Special Collections staff are working with Solinet to present the Solinet workshop: Digital Imaging of Library Materials. The University Libraries is hosting the two-day workshop on March 4-5, 2004 in the CLC. More information on the workshop and registration is on the Solinet web page at <http://www.solinet.net/>.

Kersey Library

Science Fair

Jan Kulkarni was a Judge at the Science Fair for the Middle and High School students held at the Christian Academy on Friday, January 9. This is a local Science Fair held for middle and high school students and the judges are by invitation only.

Happy New Year

My Lam, one of our student assistants, brought in sweets for the Chinese New Year on January 22. This is the Year of the Monkey.



Happy Valentine's Day to everyone from all of us at Kersey Library!!

Law Library

Welcome, Jodi!

The Law Library is happy to welcome our newest colleague, Jodi Duce. Jodi is a long-time University Libraries' employee, having spent four years as an online records cataloger (or ORC, as library folks say) and five in Collection Development at Ekstrom Library. Jodi has three children and two grandchildren ("with another one on the way in about four weeks"). Her husband, John, works at LG&E.

And Goodbye, Missy. . .

Jodi takes over for Melissa Long Shuter, who left us in December to become employee services coordinator at UofL's Human Resources Department. We wish Missy all the best. (And now we have a "contact" in HR!)

Diversity Committee Happenings

On Monday, February 2 at noon in the Cox Lounge, the law school's Diversity Committee (with Law Library committee members Nancy Baker, Robin Har-

ris, and Miriam Schusler-Williams) hosted “*Brown v. Board of Education: Its Legacy in Louisville*,” the first in a year-long series of University-wide events commemorating the 50th anniversary of the landmark school desegregation decision. Panelists included Dr. Blaine Hudson, recently named Acting Dean of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Joseph McMillan, Professor Emeritus and Chair of the National Conference on the Black Family in America, local attorney Steve Porter, and Prof. Enid Trucios-Haynes of the Brandeis School of Law. Prof. David Leibson of the law school served as moderator. WFPL89.3FM recorded the program and an edited version will air late in February on WFPL. (Date and time not yet available.) Soon the program will be available at www.wfpl.org in the Audio Archive. Click on *Brandeis Law Forum*.

On Wednesday, February 11 at noon in the Cox Lounge, the Diversity Committee along with several other UofL groups (Women’s & Gender Studies, the Women’s Center, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Diversity & Racial Equality, and the Lambda Law Caucus) will present attorney Beth Robinson, co-counsel in the groundbreaking case, *Baker v. State of Vermont*, in which the Vermont Supreme Court recognized the constitutional right of same-sex couples to the benefits and protections of civil marriage. This program will also air on WFPL later in the spring and be available in the Audio Archive.

Louisville Mandolin Orchestra Lunchtime Classics Concert on WUOL90.5FM

The Louisville Mandolin Orchestra performed in the Public Radio Partnership Performance Studio on December 10, 2003 in the *Lunchtime Classics* series. The concert aired on December 27, 2003 and is now available at www.wuol.org in the Audio Archive. Just click on *Lunchtime Classics*. For more information on the LMO, please contact Robin Harris at 852-6083 or robin.harris@louisville.edu

A Famous Cartoonist of the Future in Our Midst???

Evening Circulation Manager (and Cartoonist Extraordinaire) Jerome Neukirch is working on an exciting project these days. The IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) will be celebrating its centennial next year and to mark the occasion Verso Press is putting out a comics anthology. In addition to illustrating other pieces, Jerome will be collaborating with



Jerome’s owl logo, which he created for *The Owl on the Web* in 1998.

comics writer Harvey Pekar (subject of the recent film *American Splendor*). If you are not familiar with Pekar and his work, visit www.harveypekar.com to find out about his autobiographical comic books that tell of his ordinary life as a civil servant in Cleveland. Congratulations to Jerome on landing this terrific project!

Music Library

Student Assistant News

Congratulations to student assistants Whitney Allen, Marlene Ballena, and Rebecca Frank for making the School of Music Dean’s List. Also, we welcome new student assistant Marlene Ballena.

UARC

Kathie Johnson is thrilled to announce that youngest daughter Cassidy graduated from UofL with a degree in Theatre Arts on December 18. Cassidy worked in UARC as a student assistant at one point in her college career. Oldest daughter Kira works in the UofL Admissions Office while taking classes toward her degree, and middle daughter Megan (with degrees from Spring Hill College and Bellarmine University) is pursuing certification in the English as a Second Language Program in our College of Education and Human Development. The Johnsons are now a complete UofL family!

Thank You



DARE TO SAY THANK YOU!

“My thanks to Alice for her help moving my desk around over break. Flex those muscles! Couldn’t have done it without you.”
—Katie Meyer



“We have several student workers at Kornhauser that I would like to thank for their hard work last year: Eric Supplee, Morakat Meesook (Kik), Lam Bach, Nick Talbott and Roseann McCarty.

“Also, I would like to say a special “thank you” to Sunrye Yo and Pruk Tanguba for their attendance and hard work as well as Salah Ali for his hard work.

“Thank you guys, you are all so greatly appreciated!”
—Joan Nailon



“I’d like to have a Thank You put in for Carrie Daniels, from the UARC staff, for arranging and carrying out the Archives shelf read project. I think that’s worthy of some public kudos!”
—Chad Owen



“Thank you, Jeanelle Sears in Ekstrom Circulation, for helping me make such a big dent in the massive amount of e-reserves received at the beginning of this semester.”
—Mike Smith



“My thanks to Collection Development for letting me borrow their dolly—I could not have helped Katie Meyer move her desk without it. Thank goodness for wheels!

“Another awesome thing was to witness was the utter brute strength of Katie Meyer, John Spivey, Mike Smith, and Ryan Stearman!”
—Alice Abbott-Moore

Read *The Owl on the Web*
at <http://owl.library.louisville.edu>

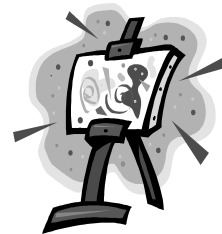


Note: The web sites cited in this issue are active at the time of publication but may not be available later.

Exhibits

Art Library Belknap Gallery

Walter Sorge - New Work
January 22 - February 22, 2004



Gallery X

Charles Shedden: Documents, Monuments, Potential Investments
January 22 - February 22, 2004

Ekstrom Library Lobby

Louisville Municipal College, 1931-1951
Louisville Municipal College carried on a tradition of higher education for African American students in segregated Louisville, Kentucky.
February, 2004

UofL's Diversity Programs

Information on UofL organizations encouraging diversity
February, 2004

Special Collections Photographic Archives & Rare Books Galleries

Word and Pictures: Kentucky Authors — Portraits, Manuscripts and Books
February 4 – April 2, 2004

Music Library First Floor Gallery

KMEA (Kentucky Music Educators Association)
February 1-13, 2004

Jazz Week 2004 – Works of Featured Artists
February 16-March 22, 2004



Louisville author Gwen Davenport, 1987. Photo by Bill Carner.