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**EDITORIALLY SPEAKING**

**MINORITIES—A CHALLENGE TO AMERICAN DEMOCRACY**

As long as minorities suffer the cruelty and inequality of discrimination, America's existing "way of life" is a challenging threat to democracy and a blockade to world peace. Although slavery is gone, the universal problem of minorities can be accepted as a just substitute. Minority treatment exposes the paradox of America's democratic practices.

It certainly requires no microscope to see where America stands in regard to the situation. For many years now minority groups have presented a tense problem in all spheres of American life — social, economical, political, and religious. They have created a fervor of conclusion; however, in spite of the numerous suggestions to eradicate the problem, none have succeeded. In truth, it is more highly improbable to assume that any definite solution will come soon.

In casting about many theories and ideas have emerged above the water, but they have brought no practical solution, and surely another try can prove no less fatal.

Believing as Kilpatrick that life in any good and full sense involves participation with others on terms of mutual sharing and mutual respect, there are several factors that might offer considerable enlightenment. However, it is to be understood that the problem of minorities takes on different aspects in different sections of the country. Furthermore, the religious problem is so diverse in scope from the racial problem, that the two demand significantly different treatment.

For generations exodus was offered as an ideal method for solving the problem of racial conflict. Today, this is an utter impossibility because, first, there is no "vacant" place on earth large enough to hold the vast numbers of minority victims; and second, the cost of deportation would involve such a tremendous political job and such a staggering financial expenditure that it would undoubtedly leave the national treasury in a state of bankruptcy. America might as well accept the fact that minority groups are here to stay and even though they may be causing considerable annoyance, they themselves are not passing the time in undisturbed comfort.

The first factor of importance is this: America must curb the machine of human exploitation of man by man. Life must become a table of equality and a dictionary of universal knowledge, pliable to all ages, groups, and races. Until men learn that they cannot use fellow human beings to make their own lives easier, racial unity will not be achieved.

Second, we must drive out this "out-molded" belief of "white supremacy". When people take biology and any of the other "ologies" to substantiate racial superiority, then modern science has outgrown its usefulness and is declining into a state of deterioration. In short, "We can all improve the wish to make our democracy Christian in the sense of making it considerate of others, but we must be careful not to claim that it is Christian in any sense which excludes others from being equal partners in the democracy."

Third, since it is so obvious that the "we" group attitude as over against "others" has been so narrowly developed, something must be done to eliminate it entirely. Unfortunately, the "we" group idea instilled in children from youth, is strongly objectionable because it hinders understanding of the "others" group and permits no adequate opportunity for racial intercourse. Moreover, people so often judge an entire group by the actions of certain individuals. How is it possible to dislike someone when you don't even know him?

Fourth, and last, segregation is closely allied with the preservation of "white culture." Racial discrimination is wrong, it causes widespread dissention among groups, it creates unpleasantness, and yet "white America" persists in retaining this "poor excuse" of culture. SEPARATION will NEVER solve the problem.

Most people offer education and christianity as the solutions. Christianity may be the answer, but it certainly has made no rapid progress toward this end. Education has accomplished little in its task of exposing the truth about minority groups and making America conscious of the injustices, handicaps, and wrongs under which minority groups struggle.

In conclusion, of this one thing I am certain — the problem will never be solved until it is attacked directly and without fear. Democracy can never be a full-pledged practice until America uses her national strength to denounce "tyrannical idealists" and publicly abide by a "democratic way of life." Unless men become united in one accord, strive to build on a foundation of just equality, and use intelligent foresight to encompass the breach of segregation and discrimination, America's future is doubtful.

It will take a lot of faith and a lot of belief to attain this goal, but this faith is the only weapon with which America has to fight tomorrow.

*Yuletide Scripts*

By EDITH BISHOP

ONCE AGAIN we are in the midst of another Yuletide season — the first since the cessation of hostilities; the first in four long years that we can sit around our individual tables and thank God that we are free once more from the awful scourge of war, bloodshed and stupid hatreds. It should make us feel like joining with the poet who said,

"When all they mercies, O my God,  
My rising soul surveys,  
Transported with the view, I'm  
lost  
In wonder, thanks and praise."

I WONDER what there is about the prospects of a Christmas holiday that fills everyone with the "jitters"? All you can hear is "Only a few more days" — "I can hardly wait" — Gee, why doesn't the 19th hurry up and come! And the Freshmen — how they rub in the fact that they leave a day ahead of the rest of us! (And can you blame them?)

AS USUAL, we observed the traditional Christmas sister week. Hasn't it been fun? — not to mention the suspense that went along with it. The real climax came when our "unknown" sisters became "known" at the Student Senate Party in the gymnasium. Then we realized how completely fooled we had been in many cases, despite our portests that "we knew all the time!"

ANOTHER manifestation of the "good-will" spirit was the party given by the Freshmen for the nursery school children. The kiddies really enjoyed every minute of it. Bully for the "Frosh" — they are really fine! The W. S. C. S. and the Sunday School, with the same spirit, distributed gifts to the needy on the 15th.

THE dormitory parties went off smoothly again. Santa really visited Merner Hall in a big way. The girls exchanged gifts among themselves and the presents really looked good. 'Course, I'd be prejudiced about Merner 'cause that's my "Dorm" — but I hear that the rest of the parties were equally as nice.

DID YOU hear any unusual noises lately? If so, that must have been Bennett's carollers. Seriously though, the singing was beautiful and did much to add to the festive atmosphere.

OF COURSE, we can't speak of our Christmas activities without at least mentioning the "Living Madonnas" and the choir concert which were given on the 9th and 16th respectively. They were both superb presentations.

I REALLY must quit now for it's time for me to pack my grip and join the rest of the homeward-bound souls so — MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR from me to you — and — see you on the 3rd!

**SECURITY AMERICA'S MAJOR INTEREST ASSERTS "Y" SECRETARY**

Miss Nora Ventura of Lucknow, India, National Religious Education Secretary of the Y. W. C. A. of Burma, India and Ceylon, placed security as the major interest of the American people during her recent visit to the campus.

The speaker surmised that although America is the most resourceful and richest nation in the world, notwithstanding the fact that it has remained practically untouched by war, she should be the last nation to place security above other interests.

"The majority of the peoples of India and throughout Europe are seldom aware of the source of their next meal," said Miss Ventura. "and yet security is not their chief inter-

**THE PEACOCK SHEDS HIS TAIL**  
By ALICE TISDALE HOBERT

The Peacock Sheds His Tail is a novel that has everything! It is a story of international marriage with Modern Mexico as its setting. Though the book deals with many characters, Concha Navarro is the person around whom the story is centered.

Born of an aristocratic family, Concha bears all the outward marks of her class; she is charming, cultured, interesting and admirable. She has the courage to meet life and all of its disappointments without flinching.

Old Don Julian, Concha's grandfather is the typical Spanish aristocrat and his wife Mama Grande is the complete matriarch. Concha's brother, Nacho introduces into the family, a young man from the United States Embassy, James Buchanan with whom Concha falls in love and marries in the face of violent family opposition. As a result of this marriage, Buchanan is forced to give up his diplomatic career. The next position Jim takes is in a large oil company as a public relations man who attempts to reconcile American interest with Mexican progress.

Other problems dealt with in this powerful novel are the governmental attempts at reform, education of the peasants, a widening ownership of land, and the opposition these forces meet. Life on a co-operative hacienda is presented with fascinating details. No other book written by Mrs. Hobart has such warmth and deep understanding. The author brings into play her finest skill in championing the underdog. The reading of

this book would most assuredly give the reader a vivid picture of racial intercourse and the common humanity of all peoples.

**SWING LOW—EDWIN A. PEEBLES**

"Swing Low" is the heartwarming story of Negro "city" life. The first novel of Mr. Peebles, the story's setting is Atlanta's notorious Billiard Alley. It centers around the life of Willie Mac, a slow, quiet, respectable, yet extremely passionate Negro, and his big motherly, religious wife, Amy, who find life far more turbulent and distressing in Billiard Alley than on their peaceful, little Georgia farm.

In this penetrating novel the author has captured all the charm, slow spoken humor, violence and terror of the "city" Negro. With these forces he has combined the fear and hatred of some poor whites for the Negro and the understanding of a few whites of their darker brothers. The result, a simple yet powerfully written book of human life.

"Swing Low" is a short novel which is easy to read. For those who read it, it will give a clear, vivid picture of the temptations and hazards of city life and the desire and longing of all Negroes for peace and security in life.

Mr. Peebles could have had no other reason for writing "Swing Low" than pure understanding and compassion for the Southern "city" Negro and his problems, for had he any other reason, he could not have portrayed the life of the Negro in such an enlightening and sympathizing manner. You'll enjoy, "Swing Low".

**NEWS QUIZ:**

(Score 10 pts. for each correct answer. Answers on page 4)

1. The Chinese Nationalist Party is called (a) The Toa Teh King, (b) The Kuomintang, (c) The Confucianist Party.
2. Who are the three Negro women delegates of the International Woman's Meet in Paris?
3. Who was this year's Nobel Peace award presented to?
4. What outstanding Negro was recently elected to direct the Phelps-Stokes fund?
5. The results from a recent radio rating of news commentators placed whose name at the top of the list?
6. The name Radar was coined from the words (a) Radio serials, (b) Radio detection and Ranging, (c) Radio art of Rationation.
7. What great American song writer died November 5?
8. What bill concerning a national holiday recently passed the Senate?
9. For promoting better racial re-

10. What play now on Broadway advocates better race relations and what Negro actor has a starring role?

**Alumni Notes**

"Although the Alumnae Drive is not over, after receiving word of the 100 per cent report from the Jacksonville area, Mrs. Pauline Waters Smith, group representative, and the reports coming in from other areas, we feel quite sure that the Loyalty Fund campaign will reach a successful climax," said Mrs. Grace C. Gates, Association president. The drive ends December 11.

DID YOU KNOW THAT: Nettie Houston '45 is now Mrs. Cressie Thigpen?

Cute, little Valena Minor became the wife of Captain Earl R. Lane of Wickliffe, Ohio, December 7. Valena, former editor of the Banner, was a graduate of the class of '43, and is now associated with the Cleveland Call and Post.

From the Bennett Alumnae and fellow sisters throughout the states comes a sincere wish for The Merriest Christmas Ever and a New Year filled with Happiness."

IF IT'S GOOD FOOD YOU WANT  
YOU'LL FIND IT AT  
**BROWN'S**  
**ICE CREAM PARLOR**  
Corner of Bennett and Washington  
Phone 3-1445 We Deliver

**STEWART'S**  
**SHOE SHOP & SHINE PARLOR**  
707 East Market Street  
Bring Your School Shoes and We'll  
Make Them Look Like New!  
DEPENDABLE SERVICE  
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

est. The situation in India and other parts of Europe is one that solicits the aid of America both economically and spiritually. The eyes of these people are on America, the supposedly Christian nation, to see what steps she will take in settling the problems brought about by war. To India, this will be the test of the validity of American Christianity."

India is the source of the majority of the world's population; likewise it is the source of the majority of the world's poverty. Are we going to sleep through her period of crisis?

In concluding, Miss Ventura disclosed the type of social system found in India and various aspects of Indian culture. Said the speaker, "Despite the existing conditions within a country, home is the best place anyone can go."