

# "I Wrote My Own Speeches," Ex-President Declares

## Harry S. Truman Tells Morgan Prof He Wrote Every One Of His Speeches

BALTIMORE, Md. — Ex-President Harry S. Truman hasn't lost his touch. He's still controversial . . . and he's still a convincing letter writer. If you like concrete proof of this, check with Mr. Harold B. Chinn, instructor in English and Speech at Morgan State College. Mr. Chinn has the proof in the form of a letter from the "Man from Independence," in which Mr. Truman, referring to his Presidency, asserts, "I wrote my own speeches." Correspondence between Mr. Truman and Mr. Chinn is the result of a controversy that developed in this way: In assigning model speeches for analysis in a speech class at the college, Mr. Chinn selected one delivered by Mr. Truman at the lighting of the National Community Christmas Tree in Washington, D. C., on December 24, 1945. During the classroom presentation and analysis, Mr. Chinn appraised the speech, which is entitled "The Spirit of Peace," as "a great inspirational speech" and called it a "perfect model" for classroom study. He further pointed out

elements of style which he identified as "characteristic" of the former President and indicative of Mr. Truman's deep religious background. On the point of style and composition Mr. Chinn was challenged by members of the class on the issue of authorship. Whether or not Mr. Truman really wrote the speech himself was heatedly debated until Mr. Chinn, holding on to his conviction that Truman was indeed the author, "rashly promised" the class that he would write to the former President and find out. He did, and in characteristic Truman style, bristling, forthright, convincing came the reply. It read: "Dear Mr. Chinn: People are forever arguing on the subject of your letter of the tenth. . . . In my library here there is ample evidence to support the fact that I wrote my own speeches. For instance, in our display of the Point IV program, there is the message of 1949 written in my own hand. I always wrote them out, sometimes from an outline I had dictated previously. My re-readings prompted revisions, of

course, in an effort to make the speeches completely understandable to everyone. When I was satisfied, I had them checked for facts. . . . No matter what evidences you may produce, however, there still will be arguments. Those people

who do not want to believe the truth about a man cannot be convinced, particularly if that man has been President of the United States. Sincerely yours, "And of course, there's the famous signature, 'Harry S. Truman.'"



BENNETT COLLEGE PARTY — Miss Patricia Hargrove, of Fayetteville, N. C., Bennett College Freshman and her escort, Jerry Wald, of Greensboro, make a striking couple as they leave dance area during intermission at the All-College party, marking the end of the first semester at Bennett College.

## Yes, We All Talk

By Marcus H. Boulware

**GENERAL CONSENT**  
QUESTION: Please explain what is meant by voting by general consent? — C. B. M.  
ANSWER: Voting by general consent, is, in a way, a method of voting by not voting. Let me illustrate it this way: When the chairman feels that every member has had an opportunity to voice his opinion on the motion, he may say: "If there are no objections, the motion is carried." Another example may run thus: "You have heard the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. If there are no objections, the minutes stand approved as read."  
**UNANIMOUS CHOICE**  
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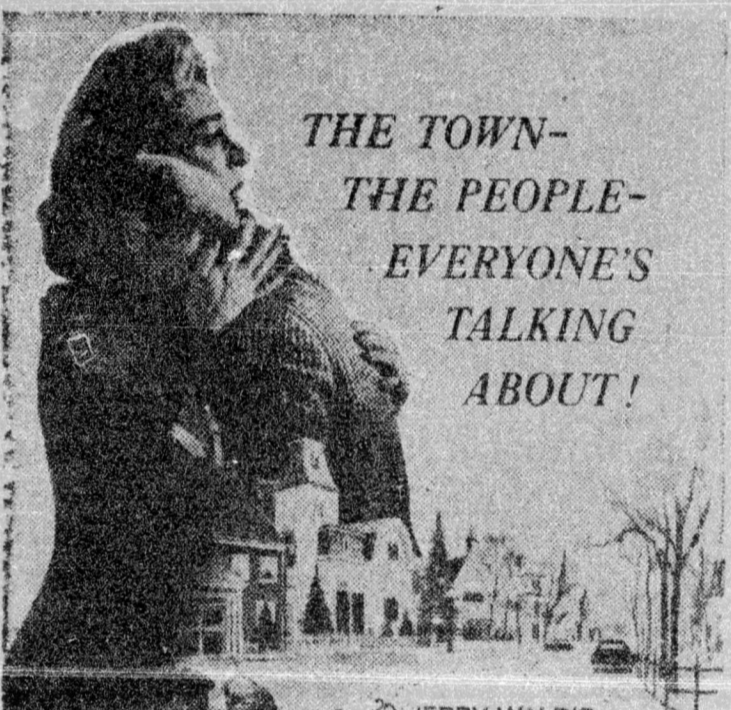


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AMBASSADOR STARTS SUNDAY

### Rev. K. O. P. Goodwin A & T's Religious Emphasis Speaker

GREENSBORO — A chartered course of Christian living was outlined last week at the annual observance of Religious Emphasis Week, conducted at A. and T. College. The religious lecture series featured the Rev. Kelly O. P. Goodwin, pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church of Winston-Salem. The prominent minister, a graduate of Howard University, holds other degrees, and advanced training at Albright College School of Theology. Opening the series on Sunday morning, Rev. Goodwin spoke from the subject, "The Measure of a Man." He described the "tests" under three categories of appetite — involving the physical desires and economic urges of our time; faith — revolving about our inner urges and drives which require us to believe in those things that are good or bad and ambition — the compelling urge for security and social acceptance. He cautioned his audience that there must be maintained a keen balance with these categories to prevent extremes. "One's appetite, faith and ambitions must be disciplined," he said, so that they may be kept in divine balance."

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