

THE FUTURE OUTLOOK
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THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1942.

YOUR RACE IN THE MOVIES

You're in a theater—sitting in the balcony, of course, because this is the South and you are a Negro. The feature attraction is going on when suddenly there is flashed on the screen a fat, black, greasy, grinning character. And what is your immediate reaction? You burst into loud appreciative guffaws and think that this character is probably the funniest you have ever seen. Why?

Do you like to see your race represented at its lowest, most unattractive level? Do you want other people to judge you by the movie representation of the Negro? Do you want to be thought of as a perpetually grinning, lazy stooge that speaks in a half-witted dialect? Of course you don't and yet as long as you laugh at them, the cinema producers will continue to characterize the Negro as unbecomingly as possible.

The matter of typing the American Negro as "the happy cotton picker" has long been a bone of contention championed by the N. A. A. C. P. Advertisers have been forced to change their illustrations of the Negro woman. Instead of the big, common, ugly, black "mammy" formerly seen in the ads, the Negro woman now is pictured as a rich brown with pleasing features and a not-so-eloquent staccato. The usual red bandana is missing from her head nine times out of ten now—nor does she murder the king's English so consistently or thoroughly as before.

The N. A. A. C. P. has fought a long battle to raise the idea of the Negro in the eyes of other races. Yet YOU, the Negro himself, seek to tear down all the work done by putting your stamp of approval on things about which you should properly be highly indignant.

Some pictures or series of pictures present the Negro as a meritorious level. One of the "Dr. Kildare" pictures paid tribute to a Negro surgeon. The more recent Jack Benny pictures have made Rochester and his "lady-love" more comical by their clever lines rather than by dressing them in poor taste or making them resort to derogatory race statements. "Gone With the Wind" depicted Hattie McDaniels as a "mammy"—that is true—but not as a ludicrous one. The mammy in "Gone With the Wind" was one of the most admirable characters in the picture.

Specific examples of bad race representation on the screen are not necessary. You know the type when you see it—men with popping eyes, broad hairs disclosing tooth gaps, the worst hair imaginable, and a laziness that really rivals the proverbial "molasses in January." The women—big and fat to tight-fitting, loud clothes, coarse and loud in speech. Both men and women are represented as the "Uncle Tom" type—ingratiating, ever-loving yet afraid of the "superior" whites—which may have been all right for Civil War days but do you appreciate it now?

So the next time your race is jokingly insulted on the screen, don't laugh! Suppress that nervous urge somehow! Be perfectly silent... Report the distasteful incident to your theater management—show them that you RESIST! It's in that way some day in the not too far off future the Negro on screen will be persons that will make you proud that you, too, have a brown skin.

KEEP PHYSICALLY FIT TO KEEP AMERICA FIRST!

Ten thousand football fans stand in the stadium cheering for one of the two teams struggling on the gridiron. Twenty-two college boys at the

height of physical condition get a good workout. What of the ten thousand excited fans—what exercise are they getting?

That has been the fault of America at large. The masses cheer while a few men get the full benefits of exercise. America has been a "spectator sport" nation! In Germany and Italy all boys are a part of a great youth movement. They participate in mass drills, exercises, outdoor camps, hikes and the like. Their childish flesh is trained into iron like muscles. They enter manhood as perfect examples of health conditioning. In Germany and Italy they realize that the boys of today are the men of tomorrow!

In America there is a tendency to let childhood go its wonted way—there is no specific training that has an ultimate end in view. The diets of youngsters are not watched too carefully—their hours of rest are loosely regulated. This early laxity shows in manhood. The number of hollow chested, actually weak, men that respond to the draft was surprising. And that is America's youth.

Many places in the country especially in the South are without facilities for recreational athletics which are so vital in the physical fitness program. As a result the Physical Fitness Department in Washington is attempting to raise \$300,000 for the equipment needed in these sections. Sixty thousand dollars has already been raised. Proceeds from big league baseball games, The Hall America Golf Tourney, The National Golf Tournament, The Eastern Golf Championship, and other profit-making sports events will be turned over to this fund. Part of it will be used in North Carolina to give American citizens better bodies and Americans a better chance.

Exercise regularly. A few minutes of regulated individual exercise can keep your muscles in tone, your body fit. Don't let the school boys get all the exercise. Play baseball yourself; get out on the old sandlot and take a swing at the apple. Play basketball, tennis and a number of other sports. These sports as well as keeping your physical condition at a higher level will give you that release from everyday routine that makes for a happy mental balance.

Physical fitness is the keynote of today's crisis. America not only needs her citizens strong but she can not afford to have them ill. There is a shortage of medical aid which will grow more acute as the war progresses. A cold that keeps you away from your job one day is making you a "bottle-neck" in the defense campaign. Prevent sickness rather than waiting to cure it. Keep yourself at the peak of health! Give America a chance!

THE NEGRO COMES INTO HIS OWN

In previous American wars the Negro has served and served faithfully but his service usually consisted of carrying some Southern gentlemen's sword, digging trenches, working in the kitchens, or a dozen other menial but vital activities. In this new war, World War II, the Negro is coming into his own. He is gaining the recognition of valiant service that by rights should have been accorded him as far back as the Revolutionary War when Peter Salem distinguished himself at Bunker Hill. He is getting the chance for advancement into officers' ranks—a chance he has long merited but has been denied because of that venomous word—prejudice!

The Negro can not only fight—the Negro makes a good tactician as well. Up until now it seems that the whites agreed that the Negro could shoot well or use a bayonet with skill because these were manual activities. The whites did not think the Negro could use his brain as well. Brigadier-General Benjamin O. Davis, Colonel West Hamilton, Colonel Charles Young have all proved themselves living refutations.

Combat in the air in the last war was strictly a white man's job. There were no Negro "air devils" in America. In anticipation of this war an air corps was established at Tuskegee, Alabama, to train Negro combat pilots. The Negro student pilots are required to pass the same rigorous tests that the white pilots must un-

dergo and at least 50 per cent of them come through the course and receive their wings.

The public does not seem to be reluctant in giving the Negro praise where praise is merited in this war. Dorie Miller, the "unknown" hero in the Pearl Harbor attack is just as great a hero to the whites as he is to members of his own race. When a newsreel recently showed a sequence of the 41st Engineers laying out a temporary bridge at Fort Bragg the white audience clapped enthusiastically for the Negro boys. Outstanding articles have been brought to the attention of the public—Walter White's article that appeared first in Survey Graphic, "The Negro in the Army" is printed in the April Readers' Digest where millions of Americans will read it and be proud.

Yes, the Negro is establishing a military tradition of his own. Whole families follow the army—the Richardsons of Evanston, Illinois, the Welch brothers of Tuskegee, Alabama, the Davises, father and son. For them the army has new meaning—they are at last getting those equal rights that we, as Negroes, talk so much about. They are fighting shoulder to shoulder with white soldiers in war time just as they lived shoulder to shoulder with white men during peace time. America has been slow to recognize the Negro but at last he is coming into his own!

A SALUTE TO NEGRO FAMILY LIFE

It is truly significant that in the 10th Annual Homemaking Institute held at Bennett College March 16-22 four Greensboroians received traditional Family Awards. Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, of Palmer Memorial Institute, presented the certificates of honor to one member of each family. What did these pieces of rolled paper mean that made them so precious, so VERY significant at a time such as this?

These pieces of paper meant that these four families possessed traits indicating that they have high potentialities of making successful adjustment to the current war situation. As family units they are cooperative, sincere, interested; they realize that such "war news" is propaganda and try to establish an intelligent basis for that which they will believe and that which they will discredit. They understand the significance and seriousness of black-outs, air-raid warnings, tire saving. They believe in being together more than ever in this time of national disturbance.

Through their years of married life each of the four couples honored has been constant, stable, and has thought primarily of the home and family each was building.

Employment records show that all four men and some of the women have been thorough perserving workers in whatever field they worked. They have advanced in good times any have been able to secure employment in times of depression before those who had less commendable records.

Their buying and nutritional habits have been the best. They buy what they NEED wisely. Their clothes have been chosen with care and kept in good condition. Their diets have been balanced, wholesome, attractive.

One family represented happy home life for over a period of 20 years—one was a recently established home in which the mother looked almost as young as her two pretty little girls. All were outstanding examples of well-rounded homes. Their contribution to society are better citizens to build tomorrow's world—the world we are tearing down now.

And so the Future Outlook salutes these four families: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Heath of 1119 Landreth street, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith of 156 McCulloch street, Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Shuford of 509 Bennett street, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wallace of 1822 Booker street.

May there be many, many more like them in the years to come!

St. Matthews Choir

The Junior Choir of St. Matthews Church will have their practice Tuesday evening.

Poetry In Everyday Life

REVERIE

(Valena E. Minor)

I sit alone and try to scoff
At thoughts of you—they won't wear off
I cuss, get mad, and swear!
Your name keeps running through my mind
And deep within my heart I find
My dear, I'll always care.

And every time I close my eyes
I see your hated form arise
And—oh! it irks me so.
Why must you always haunt my dreams?
Why are you part of all my schemes?
Why must love still grow?

Every now and then I see
That you have tender thought of me
They make my world seem right.
And if someday you do reclaim
My love and then reviv'e the flame
The embers will burn bright.

"It's plain to see we'd never make if
I'll keep my heart 'cause you'd just break it
You had it once, I know!"
But those words I can't believe
My lips were meant just to receive
Your kiss—I miss it so!

If I could pledge myself anew
I'd like to prove I could be true
Through all the years to come.
But, what the heck, our paths don't cross.
I flipped the coin and lost the toss—
I guess I just played dumb!

YOUR BIRTHDAY

(Valena E. Minor)

I went down town today to buy
A birthday card that said what I
Might want to say to you.
But no card, no verse seemed quite
sincere
Enough to give to you, my dear,
Though all said "I love you."

How could some unknown person
write
My feelings down in black and white?
He wouldn't know the story.
He wouldn't know the joy and pain
That's in my heart for you to claim—
He couldn't know the glory.

I'm sure my eyes have told you all
I feel—if you can but recall.
Why should my lips repeat?
So all that's left for me to say
Is that I'm looking toward the day
You'll make my life complete.

LOVE SONG.

This innocent and equal air,
Being both alike to hawk and dove,
Indifferent in the will to bear
The adder's hiss, the song of love.

And careless all of ill or well,
And ample, having ample room,
For sleigh bell and the marriage bell
And the slow-tolling tongue of doom,

Has now the gracious will to take
The flowering syllables of this
That I am singing for your sake,
And wear it with the adder's kiss.
—David Morton—in Kaleidograph.

GIFTS.

I cannot walk the dusty road
That leads to far off Bethlehem
To pay my homage to The Child,
Or give Him any priceless gem.

But I can give much more than this
By opening my heart's door tonight,
And welcoming Him King of Kings
Again here on this holy night.

He does not ask of us the gifts
The three kings brought Him long ago,
But peace on earth, good will to man,
As shining as the starlight's glow.

And so I wait the lovely hour,
Away from all the busy throng;
And oh, I'm sure that I shall hear
The angels' sweet celestial song.
—William Arnette Wofford

W. I. C. Meeting

The W. I. C. of Shiloh Baptist Church will have their meeting Tuesday evening at the home of Miss Lucy Besant at 6:30 p. m.

Dr. Dett Honored At Niagara Falls

A fourteenth-century Hebrew legend and the words of a Negro Spiritual were the sources of "Father Abraham," most recent piano composition by Dr. H. Nathaniel Dett.



DR. R. NATHANIEL DETT.

distinguished musician and composer, who played this composition for the first time last Tuesday, at a banquet commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Chamber of Commerce at Niagara Falls, N. Y. Dr. Dett, who is head of the music department at Bennett College, was guest of honor at the banquet.

Believed to be the only living Negro this honored, Dr. Dett attended the banquet at the invitation of the Chamber of Commerce of Niagara Falls, where members of his family have been residents for over a century. His mother was at one time a Committee-Woman on the City Council, and his brother, is at present assistant to the post master there.

Composer, pianist, and choir director, Dr. Dett is widely known in this country and abroad for his piano suites and for his arrangements of Negro folk music. "Father Abraham," a piano solo, is the first of a series of eight Bible vignettes on which he is at present engaged.

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Church Being Built

The new structure of the Mt. Pleasant Christian church, located at the corner of South and Gray streets, is now under construction. The size of the building is 80x90 feet. Rev. P. E. Carter is the pastor.

PINCHING SHOES.

Tight shoes can give a man plenty of trouble. K. L. Goodfellow, of Denver, Colo., removed an offending brogan and flung it away. The shoe broke a jeweler's window. Intrigued by three shiny watches, Goodfellow grabbed them and ran. Police outran the limping Goodfellow. Goodfellow got 3 to 5 years.

HOWARD-BOOZER

Mrs. Aklis Howard and Rev. L. R. Boozer were married Saturday, March 7. They are residing at 1204 Haynes street. They had dinner March 8 at Mrs. W. C. Cole's. Rev. Mr. Boozer is the pastor of Antlarch Christian church on Gibson street.