

SENIOR MESSAGE



ULYSSES BELL '65

Delivered by Ulysses Bell
Class Orator and Editor
of the Compass
on April 13, 1965
At the Annual
College Day Assembly

We thought so highly of our own Ulysses Bell, his career, his personality and his sense of the humor of making the staff address that we arranged to have him speak at the assembly.

—The Staff and Advisors
Dr. Ridley, Dean Anderson, officers of the senior class, administrative officers, faculty, staff, fellow classmates, and student body.
I have been given this honor of delivering the senior message. At first, I found it rather difficult to select, I guess you may say, a topic of significance, not only to the seniors but to the underclassmen as well. As we all listen to our radio, watch our televisions, read our newspapers, or engage in conversation of special interest today, we undoubtedly are aware that the age in which we are living now is the time of a new social order, a time of unforced accomplishments of just a few years ago.

The Pressures
We, as college students, today are being looked upon for greater expectations and higher achievements than even last year's graduates. More will be expected of you, juniors, than us. More from the sophomores than from you, and at this rate, freshmen, you can visualize the high standards which you will be expected to meet.

Our present American society is perhaps the most affluent of any society in the history of mankind. What does this say to us? It says that the college student of today faces a challenge unequal to any other; a challenge which demands a excellence, character, faith, principles. It says that unlimited opportunities are opened to us. It says that we must take advantages of these opportunities. This is the beginning of the era of the "Great Society."

Sit-Downs
There are some new sit-downs working now. The interviewers are now beginning to sit down in the conference room of our college placement office. What will they hear while sitting there? Will they sit there and hear someone say, "Give me another year so that I may go to graduate school," or "My high school education was not adequate" or "My college has left me poorly prepared" or "That the time I needed for a college education I used to correct the inadequacies my high school gave me." What will we say, fellow students? Have we sincerely taken full advantage of the opportunities afforded us? Underclassmen, are you making the best use of your time?

Confidence
Or will we be as confident in our qualifications as Savannah State College graduate, Sherman Robinson, when he faced a recruiter from Hoffman-La Roche Incorporated, a pharmaceutical firm, during a two-day "Opportunity Center" at Chicago's Conrad Hilton Hotel.

"What do you plan to be doing ten years from now?" the La Roche recruiter asked.

"I plan to be president of your company," was Sherman's prompt reply.

The surprised interviewer spluttered, then explained: "You might not have enough stock to become president."

Sherman answered: "If I don't, I'll be running a photo-finish second to the fellow who does."

As a starter, Sherman was hired

as a \$10,000-plus-a-year sales representative for Hoffman-La Roche. When Sherman reaches second base, which one of us will be seated as first base?

Challenges
In part I of the social revolution, we were on the defensive. We embraced America because the system prevailed so long. The system is crumbling now.

We embraced for awhile the great society of the home of the brave and the land of the free. We embraced America because the system prevailed so long. The system is crumbling now.

Part I has ended, the intermission is over, curtains opened. Part II has started—not with us on the offensive, but rather on the defensive. The oppressor is challenging in Part II. We can no longer allow for complacency or mediocrity.

Our perspective now must transcend the state, the nation. It must incorporate the world. We must never become satisfied. Challenge the life germ that sustains dynamic personalities. It is the tension which sets life in motion and makes life life and champions champions.

Challenges have faced us from the day we registered as Freshmen, ever before then, up through the years to this College Day. Challenges undoubtedly will endure throughout our lives. How well we meet these challenges depends significantly on how hard we have worked to prepare ourselves to accept them.

Challenge is good, but for many people it instills fear. It makes them give up easily. They quit. We must never quit. Time is so short. There is so much to accomplish. Permit challenge to motivate, inspire, cause one to persevere.

These are extraordinary times. This is why our challenge is extraordinary.

Be Somebody
Think for a moment. Think of our accomplishments here. Could we have done more? What does this challenge say to us? It says that excellence is the demand of the hour. The price of excellence is a great challenging obligation. It requires us to climb the economic ladder. We have to think not only of buying cars when we have college, but we must start selling homes; not only of owning plush homes, but having homes fit your own class; not only of a large income, but a large investment as well. We cannot be satisfied with just a teaching position, but should want to become principal. Continue to be unsatisfied and become Chairman of the State Board of Education. Excellence requires ambition. Ambition is satisfied by hard work. A man's reach should exceed his grasp. The low soul takes the high road; the high soul takes the high road.

The future is in our favor because we are young people. The difference between old age and youth is not necessarily wrinkles or grey hairs but ideas. Old men dream dreams; young men have visions—visions and ideas, ideas and imagination. What are we including in our visions?

Excellence requires us to be conscious of the quest for education. It requires us to be conscious of poverty. It requires us to be conscious of power. It requires us to be respectful of our fellow man, to say, "Thank you," "I'm sorry," "My mistake." These com-

1941. He listed "the things that make life worth living."
They point the way to usefulness and happiness in life, to courage and peace in death.
If they mean to us what they meant to him, they may perhaps be helpful also to our sons and daughters for their guidance and inspiration.
Let me state them:
Believe in the supreme worth of the individual and in his right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
Believe in every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty.
Believe that the law was made for man and not man for the law; that government is the servant of the people and not their master.
Believe in the dignity of labor, whether with head or hand; that the world owes no man a living, but that it owes every man an opportunity to make a living.
Believe that thrift is essential to well ordered living and that economy is a prime requisite of a sound financial structure, whether in government, business or personal affairs.
Believe that truth and justice are fundamental to our enduring social order.
Believe in the sacredness of a promise; that a man's word should be as good as his bond; that character—not wealth or power or position—is of supreme worth.
Believe that the rendering of useful service is the common duty of mankind and that only in the purifying fire of sacrifice is the dress of selfishness consumed and the greatness of the human soul set free.
Believe in an all-wise and all-loving God, named by whatever name, and that the individual highest fulfillment, greatest happiness and widest usefulness are to be found in living in harmony with His will.
Believe that love is the greatest thing in the world; that it alone can overcome hate; that right can and will triumph over might.

Love and Faith
Throughout man's past, with what he has suffered through, how has he survived? Mainly because he has employed the most dynamic source of human energy, and that is love. For, you see, love builds. It is positive and helpful. It is more beneficial than hate. Injuries quietly forgotten soon pass away; therefore, love your fellow-man. Extend a helping hand. Remember that the person you step on in climbing the ladder of success will be the same person you'll meet in the event that you may fall down.

We must have a power to endure. Our consolation during unfortunate time is faith. Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service. Without faith, nothing is possible. Faith in God is the greatest power, but great too is the faith in one's self. Never say, "I can't," but rather, "I'll try it."
In the Book of King Albert of Belgium, "Between Midnight and Morning," faith is so stated: "Ye that have faith to look with fearless eyes Beyond the tragedy of a world's strife, And trust that out of night and death shall rise The dawn of ampler life; Rejoice, whatever anguish rend your heart That God has given you for a priceless dowry To live in great times and have your part In Freedom's crowning hour; That you may tell your sons who see the light High in the heavens—their heritage to take—I saw the power of Darkness put to flight. I saw the Morning break."

Ten-Point Program
I want to leave with you ten principles given by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., speaking on a radio program sponsored by the United Service Organization on July 8,

1941. He listed "the things that make life worth living."
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Valdictory
These are the principles so stated, the principles for which all good men and women throughout the world are standing—irrespective of race or creed, education, social position or occupation. For these, many of them are suffering and dying.

These are the principles upon which alone a new world recognizing the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God is being established.

If we can live, our lives following these principles, surely one day we will be able to say in the evening of our years: "As I face tomorrow I am content, for I have spent my life well."

Founder's Day: Drive Dedicated

The 74th anniversary of Elizabeth City State College was commemorated with Dr. James E. Cheek, president of Shaw University, delivering the Founder's Day address on February 28.

At 2:15, the annual pilgrimage to the grave site of our founders got under way. The beautiful spring-like day made the pilgrimage very impressive as wreaths were placed on the graves of Hugh Cale, Peter W. Moore, and John H. Bias. These three individuals were great forces in the establishment of Elizabeth City State College. The College Choir sang appropriate numbers.

At 3:30 p.m., the Founder's Day exercises began with President Walter N. Ridley, presiding. The choir again displayed its ability as it gave two more selections, "The Lord Is My Shepherd" and "Hallelujah from Mount of Olives." Student Council President Otha Sydnor gave greetings from the students and Mrs. Gladys Grandy from the alumni.

Dr. J. E. Cheek delivered a very stirring address. The audience seemed to have received his message well.

Hollowell Drive

Following Dr. Cheek's address, the Hollowell Drive which is to be the main street of our colleges, was dedicated. This Drive is named for Miss Isabella Hollowell, '95. Miss Hollowell was one of the first graduates of ECSC. She has proved that the love for her Alma Mater has not died.

A Founder's Day Reception in the Lighthouse concluded the Day's activities.



"I wish I could have gone home for Easter."



"Does this happen during calling hours in your dormitory?"

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